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THE SATURDAY COMMERCIAL
A LARGE SHEET CONTAINING ALL THE CURRENT NEWS, MISCELLANEOUS, LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE, AND VALUABLE READING FOR THE FAMILY.
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The Daily Commercial.

The First Veteran Army Corps.

The enlistments in Hancock's First Veteran Army Corps, are quite numerous and the indications are that the entire number—20,000, will be received and mustered in before the first of the new year. None are to be received into the Corps who have not served two years honorably. They will be armed with the best arms in the possession of the government, and permitted to retain their arms on being honorably discharged the service. The Corps will form the Old Guard of the Union army, and will constitute a force self-reliant, experienced, and whose influence will be powerful. With the skillful, experienced and fighting General Hancock at their head, these veterans will be found invincible in the field. The following circular, relative to Hancock's Corps will explain itself:

HEADQUARTERS 1ST ARMY CORPS,
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 3, 1864.
CIRCULAR NO. 2.

In reply to the numerous letters of inquiry from persons desiring to enter the 1st Corps, now being raised, the following is communicated as embodying all the information yet obtained:

I—AS TO ENLISTED MEN.

1. All enlistments and musters in are to be made in this city.

2. Any veteran, who has served two years, has been honorably discharged, and is physically qualified, may enlist in the corps for one, two, or three years.

3. Those enlisting will receive from the Government a bounty of $300 as soon as they are mustered in, and, in addition, the usual installments from the Government, in proportion to the period of enlistment, as follows: $100 for one year's service, one-third paid on enlistment; $200 for two year's service, one-third on enlistment; $300 for three year's service, one-third on enlistment.

4. They will be credited to the quota of the district in which they or their families may be domiciled, and will, therefore, be entitled to local bounties.

5. Free transportation will be furnished them to Washington by any provost marshal. It is only necessary that the applicant should satisfy the Provost marshal that he comes under the provisions of paragraph 2, and that the application is made in good faith.

6. On arriving in Washington, and reporting at the Soldiers' Rest, Baltimore and Ohio Rail-road Depot, veterans will be cared for and enlisted and paid promptly. They will be sent to the camp of organization at Camp Cliffburne, and will be formed into companies and regiments as they arrive—personal preferences being regarded when the good of the service will permit.

7. The first arms in the possession of the government will be furnished these troops, and they will be allowed to retain their arms when honorably discharged.

II—AS TO OFFICERS.

1. Persons desiring commissions must make written application to the Adjutant General of the army, setting forth their postoffice address, the date of original entry into service, and with what rank, the organization with which service was rendered, the date and cause of discharge, and the rank at the time of discharge. Testimonials from commanders may accompany such applications.

2. Should the papers be favorably considered, the applicants will be severally notified, by mail or telegraph, when to appear before the examining board, established by the War Department, and will receive appointments to such grades as the War Department may determine.

3. As soon as the letters of appointment are given, officers may be detailed to secure the enlistment of men, and, when recruited, receive their commissions, with rank and pay from date of acceptance of appointment, being given when the men are secured. It should be understood that the enlistments are to be made here, and an officer can do no more than to use his influence in persuading the men to come here and enlist.

Officers awaiting action on their papers can occupy the time in this way, and collect parties and send them on, securing a statement as to the number from the Provost Marshal, for proper credit will in all cases be given such officers.

The actual and necessary expenses of such officers will be refunded to them.

By order of Major General Hancock.

FINLEY ANDERSON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

General Sherman

An official dispatch from Lieutenant General GRANT to Secretary STANTON furnishes the latest news from General SHERMAN, who reported to be in line of battle very near Savannah. Rebel papers intimate that he is within five miles of the city, but are in doubt as to whether he will attack Savannah, or make for the coast southeast of the city. It is conceded that he could open communication with the coast very soon.

Our Army Near Richmond.

Our dispatches this morning give full particulars of the very successful expedition of Gen. WARREN to the Weldon Railroad. The expedition was undertaken to break up the communication of the Rebel supplies to Petersburg, and it was successfully accomplished. Over fifteen miles of the Weldon road was torn up with a large amount of other property destroyed. The expedition has returned to the army, having suffered very slight loss.

The Situation in Tennessee.

All is quiet at Nashville, the severity of the weather preventing any important movements on either side. The Rebel General LYON, with four thousand men, is reported to have crossed the Cumberland river into Kentucky on Saturday, and when last heard from was moving on Hopkinsville. BRECKENRIDGE, with ten thousand men, is reported to be at Sparta, Tenn., trying to form a junction with HOOD, which he is prevented from doing by STONEMAN and BURBRIDGE.

Oil Intelligence.

The Needles Well, on Ransom's Run, Pleasants county, West Virginia, presents several peculiar features. At the depth of 381 feet a crevice was struck, and the sand pump descended 510 feet without striking bottom. On striking the crevice, a flow of gas ensued for about a week. The well was then tubed and a seed bag placed just above the crevice, whereupon the well commenced flowing oil and water in considerable quantities, which continued four days, when, the tubing proving defective, it was withdrawn. A block of wood, nearly the size of the well, was sent down, attached to the sucker-rod. This block struck the tools, where it rested—a circumstance that was deemed to be proof that the crevice was at an angle from that point. On stripping the seed bag, the seed descended on a mass of paraffine, which had already nearly choked the well and closed the gas vein. The weight of water in the well has since retained the mass at the bottom, and retarded the flow of gas and oil. Steps have been taken to close the well, and it is confidently expected that it will prove to be a very fine one. These particulars we have obtained from Mr. Needles, who passed through the city a few days since, on his way from West Virginia to Philadelphia.

The Cattaraugus *Union* (Ellicottville) says: We understand they are boring for oil in the Summerville Valley, a mile or two from this village—but with what prospect of success we are not informed.

In regard to the progress of oil discoveries, the Cleveland *Leader* says: While thousands of men men stare in idle wonder or listen with painful incredulity to the marvelous stories of Oil-Dorado, there are others, more adventurous, more believing, and generally more fortunate, who are not letting the hours slip idly by, but are taking an active interest in the great oil campaigns of the day. The development in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Western Virginia, Kentucky and Indiana, grows more astonishing almost every day, and the men who are at work are the men coining their fortunes. While all should be on their guard against gambling oil companies whose lands give no promise of success, yet thousands lose money by persistent incredulity, which prevents them from taking any part whatever in the enterprise of the day. The oil business is in its infancy. There is no probability of its being merely the excited sport of an hour. It promises to be one of the great permanent endowments of this country. It opens up fields of enterprise more attractive than any yet presented, the gold mines of the West not excepted. It is wisdom, therefore, to take an active participation in the oil enterprises of the day, which have a reasonable chance of success. Thousands will lament the indecision which prevents them from realizing fortunes for themselves and for their children.

The correspondent of the London *News*, at Madrid, says that amongst Spaniards of every class the notion prevails that the cession of Corfu to Greece is only a preliminary step to the cession of Gibraltar to Spain. He adds:—It is useless to argue against the existence of [illegible] out of this misconception. "You British," they say, "love to do justice. It is as just that you should cede Gibraltar as that you should cede Corfu. The one belongs quite as much to Spain as the other does to Greece."

REV. MR. BURNHAM, of Manchester, N. H., recently enlisted in the army as a private, and was sent to the rendezvous at New Haven. Next morning after his arrival, he was summoned before the commanding officer of the post, and addressed: "Mr. Burnham, I see by your name here, that you are a reverend. About a dozen reverends have enlisted and come here; and as you are the first that has staid over night without asking for a chaplaincy, I guess we'll make you chaplain!" so they made him chaplain of the post.

FIRST EDITION.

12, MIDNIGHT.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Richmond Papers on the President's Message.

Gen. Banks and the Louisiana Congressmen.

Enemy Demonstrating Against Our Lines.

Terry Attacks and Drives Them Back.

Navy Yard Schemes Foiled in the House

Sherman Close Upon Savannah.

Rebel Silence Indicate His Success.

Gen. Banks to Remain in Washington.

The Tax on Tobacco.

Sec'y Fessenden's Trade Regulations.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, December 13.

Most all of the Richmond papers of Saturday, print President Lincoln's message in full, with elaborate editorial comments, though in a very respectful tone. The *Examiner* concludes its article as follows: As the bearing of the message upon our slaves and the war, nobody, we apprehend, can read it without coming to the conclusion that there is no citizen of the Confederate States more fully resolved to resist to the death the reconstruction of the Union than is Mr. Lincoln. Will those men at the South, who have been grieving about peace hold their tongues at last.

The *Sentinel* takes up the message and reviews at length each feature, claiming there is nothing else left for the South but to fight for independence.

General Banks was before the House Committee on Claims to-day, to urge the claims of the Representatives elect from Louisiana to seats on the floor of the House. He took the ground that these men were duly elected under the new State Constitution, and were legally entitled to be admitted to the House of Representatives.

Our advices from the front state that the enemy have been demonstrating against our lines on the south side of the Appomattox for the past few days, but on making an attack was deemed impracticable, on account of the strength of the works. After much difficulty, however, them, particularly with artillery, it was determined to carry the line of works on this side, which was done, which was subsequently done during this charge, Col. Sargent, of the 1st Massachusetts is said to have been killed. Troops were seen moving into position at this point as though they intended to attack, and the fire from the rebel batteries soon after showed that they had been reinforced. It blew got dark, and began raining, snowing and sleeting. The troops remained in the vicinity for the night, and in the morning started on their return, reaching Sussex Court House, and halting there for the night. The rebel cavalry and a small body of their infantry endeavored to annoy our rear guard, but each time they were driven back with loss. This afternoon the last column started, and the entire command crossed in safety, where they found a part of the 9th Corps, who had started in their aid in the event of an engagement. To-morrow they will all be back in their old position in front of Petersburg.

Terrible Steamboat Disaster.

BURNING OF STEAMER MARIA.

Several Lives Lost.

Soldiers Scalded and Crippled.

187 Cavalry Horses Lost.

One of the most serious river disasters of late days, occurred Monday morning at Carondelet, about six miles distant in a southern direction. Several boats were taken by the Government and loaded with horses and troops for Louisville. They started Saturday morning, and among them was the Maria. The strong tide and heavy fog compelled the boats to halt at Carondelet for the night. The pilots and other employees of the Maria said to our informants, that while the boat lay at the wharf without steam in her boilers, an explosion took place on the larboard side of the main deck, near the boiler, the explosion going upward, and blowing the boiler deck through which the clerk of the boat and several other persons fell upon the boilers. What exploded they do not know, but know it could not have been one of the boilers. They say it may have been a box of ammunition. At all events, the boat instantly took fire. While in this condition a gale of wind struck the Maria and carried her to a bar upon which she grounded and was entirely consumed.

The boat loaded the Maria were about eighty soldiers of the Third and Fourth Iowa cavalry, and the Tenth Missouri cavalry. Their statement is that at the time of the disaster they were bunking under the boilers, and they attribute the explosion to a collapse of the boilers, produced by water being pumped into them when too hot and empty. One of the soldiers says he heard a singing noise issuing from the boilers, like the whistling of the wind, about five minutes before the explosion. Capt. McMontgomery, commander of the boat, had gone ashore a few minutes before the accident, to see if some of his consorts were ready to start.

It was between six and seven o'clock, while nearly all the soldiers were in bed, that the explosion occurred. They were sleeping in the cabin, which was split in the center by the explosion, and the soldiers were precipitated to the lower deck, some falling on the boilers, some through the hole, and some into the water at the sides of the crumbling cabin. A terrible scene of excitement and confusion ensued. The soldiers, seeing the boat was on fire, rushed for the shore, without stopping to secure any of their baggage or arms, and many of them even left their shoes and hats behind. There was a lot of hay on the deck, and this immediately took fire, and burned with great rapidity. Some of the officers ordered the men to throw the hay overboard, and they commenced doing so, but the fire became necessary to cut the hay loose to prevent the flames from communicating to the Lillie Martin, the men leaped ashore and saved themselves as best they could.

Lieut. Col. Benton, of the 10th Missouri Cavalry, commanding the troops on the three boats, was on the Maria, and lost everything but the clothes he had on, and his sidearms. He had two very fine horses on board, worth over $1,000, which were lost. He was one of the last to leave the boat.

One of the colored firemen was killed instantly, and three or four others were severely injured.

It is not positively known how many lives were lost, but it is stated that twelve are missing.

As the boat drifted down, the flames spread with great rapidity. A number of men remained on board, and there were three women in the cabin. Lieut. Madigan, of the 2d New Jersey Cavalry, remained on board to try to save the women. The after cabin had been injured by the explosion, and those who remained on the boat sought refuge from the fire in the stern. The Lillie Martin was ordered out, and running close astern of the Maria, rescued all who could be found. Doubtless a few had been crippled by the falling of the cabin, and were burned to death.

There were one hundred and eighty-seven horses and mules on the Maria, all of which were lost, except four mules and one horse. There was but little freight on board, but there were a few boxes of fixed ammunition in the hold.

The soldiers lost all their arms, equipments, and baggage. They were en route for Cairo, and will have to wait here to get a new outfit.

The coolness of Colonel Benton is highly commended; also the heroism of Lieutenant Madigan in rescuing the women from the burning boat. The soldiers have no hesitation in ascribing the accident to the carelessness of the engineer, but they may be mistaken on that point.

This steamer had just made two trips, and was valued at $40,000, being entirely new. She was commanded by Captain Alexander Montgomery, who owned the boat, with Henry Jones, Joseph Scott, and Barker, Hart & Cook, of Cincinnati. Sol. Catterlin and David Blatchford were her pilots, and Wes. Dravo and Wm. Dravo were her clerks. Wes. Dravo was clerk of the Cherokee, which was burned here some months ago. The clerk is said to be badly burned on the hands and feet. The pilots have said no person was scalded, and that fact is referred to as proof that the explosion was not that of a boiler. There was in the safe in the office of the boat $5,000, which was not secured, and is believed to be lost. The steamer Lillie Martin followed the Maria, when the latter, having loosened her lines, was blown from the shore, ran alongside and took off passengers and crew. The clerk and many others escaped to a barge immediately after the explosion.

New York Petroleum Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.

Petroleum firm, at 55@56c for crude; refined, free, 96@97c; refined, in bond, 75@76c.

Highly Interesting.

Fireman's Fight in New York.

Arrival of a Prize Steamer.

Andersonville Prisoners Removed.

Union Feeling in Savannah.

Committee on the Red River Expedition

Special to the Western Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.

In a firemens' fight early this morning in the Bowery, between Engine Companies Fifty-three and Forty, a number of members and other parties were shot, cut and wounded.

In the election of general officers for the Fire Department last night, those opposed to the paid system were elected.

The prize steamer Armstrong arrived here this morning, having made the trip from Norfolk. She was captured eighty miles off Wilmington by the steamer R. R. Cuyler and Gettysburg, after an exciting chase of eight hours. She is a fast sailer, averaging fourteen miles an hour, is an iron side-wheel steamer of seven hundred tons burden, and has a cargo of cotton. She was captured on her third trip.

A large number of exchanged prisoners arrived last evening by railroad from Annapolis. Some of them recently left Andersonville, having been removed on the approach of Sherman's army to Savannah, where they were exchanged. They declare that no one who has not seen the rebel prisons can form any idea of the sufferings of the prisoners. On reaching Savannah the prisoners found many friends among the ladies of the place, who gave them all the assistance in their power, furnishing provisions and other necessaries. Some of the prisoners say many of the citizens of Savannah are Unionists. The prisoners express the opinion that there is nothing that can prevent Gen. Sherman from taking Savannah. The rebel force is small and the fortifications very weak.

George A. Updyke—libel against Thurlow Weed—was up in the Supreme Court to-day. Nothing of importance was accomplished. Among the witnesses present, for the defence, were John C. Fremont and Rufus F. Andrews.

The *World's* Washington special says:—Gov. Fletcher, of Missouri, had an interview with the President to-day, and left this afternoon for St. Louis.

A sub committee will be appointed from the Committee on the Conduct of the War, to go to New Orleans to take testimoney concerning General Banks' Red River Expedition.

The Sanitary Commission of Virginia, says the Sanitary Commission have shipped stores to Savannah.

The Military Board of Inquiry has been constituted to investigate the circumstances attending the sinking of the Florida. The Board is composed of Brig. Gen. G. P. Shepley, President; Brig. Gen. R. Clair Morton, and Col. A. Kensell, Recorder. The Naval Court adjourned.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

New York Finance and Trade.

Special Dispatch to the Western Associated Press.

NEW YORK, December 13.

The share market opened steadily on the street this morning, but at the First Board it was rather tame and prices were off at ¼@½ per cent. Government securities and Treasury papers were firm with fair business. State bonds are dull, and quotations without any marked change. Coal shares strong on authracite, and generally on bituminous. Miscellaneous list was steady and without any special feature of interest. Railroad mortgages firm, with small dealings. Railroads are advancing on rumors that these institutions are about to sell their specie and divide the surplus among the stockholders. Petroleum shares quiet and firm. Gold board quiet but rather quiet. Offerings were light. Sales of 1,500 Germania at $1 15@2 00. High. There was more animation and activity at the evening board, running close up to long time past. Gold has been dull during the day. The rumor of a disaster to Gen. Butler, failed to affect it any. Things only needed confirmation in favor of Gen. Warren's return. Money continues easy. Foreign Exchange is in moderate demand for to-morrow.

New York Gold Market.

NEW YORK, December 13.

Gold has been dull during the morning at 233¼@234½. The bulls attempted to break the monotony, with a rumor that Butler had been defeated and captured, but in advance scarcely felt. In the afternoon the market was weaker, and declined ¼.

New York Money and Stock Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.

Money scarcely so firm, with fair business at 6@7 per cent. Sterling quiet, 109½@109¾. Gold is without material change; opening at 233¾, declined to 233½, closing at 233½@233¾. Government stocks active and firmer. Stocks irregular. U. S. 6s, 5-20 coupons, 109; U. S. 8s, 10-40 coupons, 101½; Treasury 7-30's, 121½; 6's, 1 year certificates, 97; Compound Interest notes, 103¾; Ohio & Mississippi certificates, 35¼; Quicksilver, 9¾; Mariposa, 35½; Erie, 85¼; Reading, 136½; Michigan Central, 114; Rock Island, 107½; Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana, 85¾; Indiana Central, 130; Pittsburgh, 112; Northwestern, preferred, 98½; Prairie du Chene, 54; Fort Wayne, 101½.

EVENING BOARD.

At Gallagher's Evening Exchange:—Sales of New York Centrals, 121; Erie, 90; Hudson, 116¼; Reading, 136½; Michigan Central, 130½; Michigan Southern, 75; Illinois Central, 130; Chicago and Rock Island, 107½; Pittsburg, 112; North Western, 43; do preferred, 76¼; Fort Wayne, 100½; Chicago and Altona, 92; Prairie, 55¼; Ohio and Missouri Central, 35¾; Canton, 36½; Cumberland, 51; Quicksilver, 73; Mariposa, 35½.

New York Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.

Cotton firmer and rather more doing at $1 32@1 33 for mixed. Flour, State and western, without decided change, and rather more doing at $10 20@10 25 for Extra State, and $11 40@12 00 for Trade Brands, market closing quiet. Included in the sales are 5,000 bbls Extra State. Whisky rather firmer; Western $1 92@1 93. Pork opened quiet and steady. Beef dull. Lard steady; 16¾@18¾c for shoulders; 18@21 for hams. Bacon sides firm and in fair demand at 29½c for Cumberland cut; 29½@21c for long cut hams; long ribbed, and long clear and wholes long clear, for January, February and March, at 21¾c. Lard steady at 21@24½c, the latter price for very choice cut. Butter quiet and steady at 38@50c western State. Cheese unchanged at 15@24c.

New York Cattle Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.

The current prices for the week at all the yards were:

BEEF CATTLE—	1st qual., ₱ cwt.	$18 50	@19 00
	Fair to good qual.	13 00	@18 00
	Common	10 00	@12 00
	Inferior	9 00	@10 50
COWS & CALVES—	1st quality	3 60	@75 00
	Ordinary	45 00	@55 00
	Common	35 00	@45 00
	Inferior	30 00	@35 00
VEAL CALVES—	1st quality ₱ lb	13½	@ 15
	Ordinary	11	@ 13
	Common	10½	@ 11
	Inferior	10	@ 10½
SHEEP & LAMBS—	Extras, ₱ head	8 00	@10 00
	Prime	6 50	@ 8 00
	Ordinary	5 00	@ 6 00
	Common	4 50	@ 5 00
	Inferior	3 00	@ 4 25
SWINE—Heavy;	Corn fed, ₱ cwt.	13 87	@14 50
	Light and medium	12 50	@13 75
	Still fed	13 75	@13 50

The remarkable change in the weather has created an active inquiry for beef cattle, under which prices have advanced fully 1½c per lb. Sales were quick at the improvement, and 19c is quoted as the outside price. There were a good many sales of extra cattle at as high as 20c. The bulk of the sales were at 12@18c, or quitest 15c. Hogs active and prices decidedly higher. The total receipts of all stock at all the yards for the week and last week are as follows:

THIS WEEK.		LAST WEEK.	
Beeves	6,245	Beeves	5,777
Cows	80	Cows	93
Veal Calves	1,388	Veal Calves	1,175
Sheep and Lambs	18,158	Sheep and Lambs	19,274
Swine	2,408	Swine	26,438

Philadelphia Market.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 13.

Flour dull. Prices unchanged. Superfine, $9 85@10 00. Extra $10 50@11 00. Wheat firm; sales at $2 00@2 65. White, $2 75@2 85. Corn firm; old yellow, $1 88, new do, $1 70@1 72. Petroleum firm; Crude, 47@48. Refined in bond 71, do free, 90@95. Whisky steady, Ohio $1 93, Pennsylvania, $1 92.

Chicago Market.

CHICAGO, Dec. 13.

Flour quiet. Wheat steady at $1 75½ for No. 1. Corn quiet. Oats quiet and advanced 1@2 cents; sales at 68½@69c. Provisions firm; Mess Pork advanced $1 00; sales at $35 50@38 00. Prime Mess active and advanced $1 00; sales at $35 50@38 00. Dressed Hogs active and advanced 50c; sales at 14½@15c. Hogs firm at 11½@12c. Whisky firmer and advanced 1@1½c; sales at $1 18. Receipts—Flour, 1,000 bbls; Wheat, 18,000 bush. Corn, 5,000 bush. Oats 22,000 bush; Hogs, 10,000. Shipments—Flour, 6,000 bbls; Wheat, none; Corn, 5,000 bush; Oats, 1,300 bush.

SECOND EDITION.

4 O'CLOCK, A. M.

From the South.

Further from Gen. Sherman.

Georgia Will Return to the Union.

Details of Battle at Honey Hill.

Gen. Foster's Success Admitted.

Rebel Press on Mr. Lincoln's Message.

NEW YORK, December 13.

The Augusta *Sentinel*, of the 7th, says on the authority of a gentleman who was a prisoner for a day in the midst of a Yankee army, that officers spoke freely of their plans, and said Sherman did not intend to risk an engagement if he could help it, as he had no ammunition to spare. They seem content to make their way peaceably to the coast at the most practicable point without fighting.

The Augusta *Constitutionist* says that on midnight of Saturday General Wheeler fell furiously upon the enemy's rear. The Yankee horsemen who covered the rear were driven back upon their infantry support and our troops, after considerable fighting, returned. In our fight on Sunday with Kilpatrick's cavalry, assisted by the 14th corps, we repulsed the enemy in every attempt to dislodge us by fire and counter charges, but finally being flanked, were compelled to retire, which was done in the most excellent style. Our loss was between seventy and eighty, while that of the enemy is officially reported as being very heavy. One Yankee officer was captured in a hand-to-hand encounter and Kilpatrick himself was wounded. On our side Colonel Gaines, Acting Brigadier General, was wounded.

Correspondents of Rebel papers intimate that Georgia, within six months, will be part of us through state action. Staff officers repeatedly asserted that they knew the State would go back. Escaped Yankee officers from Columbia confess that the guard at that place is very susceptible to bribery. Somebody wants ventilating.

The Savannah *Republican*, of the 3d, gives a long account of the battle of Honey Hill, near Grahamsville. It says the centre and left of the enemy fought with desperate earnestness. Several attempts were made to charge our batteries, and many got nearly across the swamps, but were in every instance forced back by the galling fire poured into them from our lines.

From all indications it is estimated that the loss of the enemy is fully five or six hundred. Ours was only fifty killed and sixty-nine wounded, three or four mortally. The enemy fought to some disadvantage, as they fired up hill, and most of their shots ranged too high.

The Savannah *Herald* of the 6th admits that Foster's forces had been successful near Pocotaloigo, on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, they having driven the rebels from their entrenched position.

Richmond papers publish Lincoln's message, and call it hard names.

The *Enquirer*, at the end of a long editorial, says the conclusions of the message is a response to the propositions of the Peace Men. We suppose, if anything can, Mr. Lincoln's emphatic and brutal declarations will silence all ideas of that sort hereafter. Absolute, unqualified submission, to be followed by the application of our property to the reorganization of our country is supercilliously laid down as his only terms of peace. This declaration of the message will silence all objections to carrying on the war, and unite the public defense, if that or subjugation be the alternative.

In the rebel Senate, resolutions concerning the seizure of the pirate Florida were taken up and passed, after some discussion and considerable amendment. Semmes, of Louisiana, spoke generally. He thought Jacob Thompson their ministers to call the attention of foreign powers to the seizure. If that resolution was adopted, immediate action would be taken, communicated in a sort of back-door manner, both England and France having refused to recognize the Confederate Government. He felt more like forcing those communications than sending them fresh instructions.

The Mobile *Register* says: There is no difficulty in crossing the Mississippi. A sharp look-out for gunboats being the only necessary precaution, and is thoroughly patroled by Scott and Lyon on this side and Lee on the other.

From Our Armies.

Guerrillas Cleared Out of the Valley.

Narrow Escape of Moseby.

Lee Becoming Nervous.

NEW YORK, December 13.

The *Times'* special from Sheridan's army says: All along the front quiet has prevailed for several days. Nearly all the rebel force left for parts unknown. Since the last cavalry demonstration, Moseby has entirely disappeared and there remains behind, so far as known, only a few of Mc Neil's bushwhackers, who rendezvous in the North Mountains.

On a recent cavalry reconnoissance over the Blue Ridge, a number of rebels were killed, wounded, three or four mortally. The enemy fought to some disadvantage, as they fired up hill, and most of their shots ranged too high.

The Washington *Chronicle* of the 9th admits that Foster's forces had been successful near Pocotaloigo, on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, they having driven the rebels from their entrenched position.

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From Fortress Monroe.

Steamship Guiding Star Disabled.

Dispatches from General Canby.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 11.

The steamship Guiding Star, from New Orleans, arrived here this morning disabled, in tow of the steamer S. R. Spaulding, having lost her propeller at sea. She brings a large number of passengers, and dispatches from General Canby. All the passengers go north by the mail boat to Baltimore, the condition of the steamer rendering it impossible for her to proceed to sea without assistance.

Among the passengers of the Guiding Star are Gen. A. L. Lee, and servant; Col. F. B. Doake, A. A. G.; Capt. J. B. Marchand; Col. R. B. Granger, Capt. J. Bradbury, Lieut. Commander McCann, Col. S. S. Turbel, Major Brigham and others. The weather continues very stormy.

The St. Albans Raid Case.

The Prisoners Set at Liberty.

They Are Greeted With Cheers.

MONTREAL, Dec. 13.

At the commencement of the proceedings in the case of the St. Albans' raiders, counsel for accused denied that the Court had jurisdiction, and the Judge any right to sit on the investigation. Justice Coursal concluded that the case came under the Imperial act. The Provincial act to carry out the Ashburton treaty had not received the special royal assent requisite. The Imperial act required that a warrant for arrest of the prisoners should be signed by the Government Royal. Accordingly, Justice Coursal deferred the release of the prisoners.

Mr. Delvin implored the court not to discharge the prisoners on the remaining indictments. The Judge had acted upon one warrant, but there were six others not acted upon, and he urged that the prisoners should be held under these.

Mr. Delvin spoke of the importance of the international issue and referred to the fairness of the United States Courts toward England and Canada.

The court decided that if he had no right to arrest these men in one case, he held he had no right to detain them in another. The prisoners were therefore set at liberty. On going outside of the building they were greeted with cheers.

From Tennessee.

THE SITUATION UNCHANGED

Skirmishing on the Harding Pike.

Hostilities Postponed on Account of the Weather.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 13.

The situation is unchanged. No advance has been made by the Federal forces as yet. Gravevine information was that an advance was to have been made to-day by our forces. Some skirmishing transpired on the Harding pike, and several guns were dislodged from Fort Negley. No results are reported. The slippery state of the ground renders locomotion impossible, and hostilities will be postponed until a change of weather occurs.

From Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, December 12.

The expedition which left Norfolk on the 3d, commanded by Lieut. Col. W. M. Clark, for the purpose of breaking up the contraband trade and capturing Moseby's guerrillas, consisting of detachments from the 1st Maine cavalry, the 1st Rhode Island, and the 85th regiment New York volunteers

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Purviance's Photograph Rooms, corner of Fifth and Market streets, second and third stories, over Richardson's jewelry store, Pittsburgh, Pa. Photographs of every style, plain or colored, from the popular carte de visite to cabinet and life-size. Mr. Purviance would particularly call the attention of the aged and infirm to the easy accessibility of this establishment, being reached by a single short flight of stairs. Prices moderate, and satisfaction guaranteed.

The Daily Commercial.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1864.

☞ Correspondence on matters of public interest is solicited and will be thankfully received from our friends in all parts of the country, when accompanied by responsible names. More especially whatever relates to the discovery and production of oil, the development of oil and reliable oil intelligence in general, will be acceptable and is desired. Events of local interest mechanical and agricultural, results inventions and improvements of every description, clearly and briefly described, are solicited. To secure attention, communications should be brief, entirely reliable, and sent as promptly as possible.

Letters concerning the business departments of the newspaper or printing office should be addressed to the Business Manager. Communications designed for the paper should be addressed to The Editor.

What they Know Over the Border.

The Toronto *Globe*, a day or two since, in the course of a long article under the head of "The sole hope of the South," has the following significant paragraph:

Yesterday the telegraph stated that a raid was apprehended on Detroit. Perhaps most readers passed it over as a mere invention. Such, we are sorry to say, is not the case. We do not know that Detroit is more menaced than any other lake port, but that a plot is on foot to make an attack on our neighbors of larger proportions than has hitherto been attempted, there is little doubt. Information has been received by our Government to the effect that a regiment of Confederate soldiers have been detailed to find their way to Canada, as best they may. Temporarily disbanded they are to come here by ones and twos, but they will know when and how to unite, and if the chance be given them, they will strike a blow somewhere on our frontier.

This announcement of the *Globe's* is of considerable importance. It is an intimation that the rebels are busily engaged in a grand effort to complicate our relations with Great Britain and to involve us in a war with that country, partly to divert our attention from the crushing of the rebellion, but principally to weaken us—disable us. In this matter, we are glad to know that the Canadian authorities are on the alert. They are watching in every direction, with the determination to avert the calamity of war with the United States. The paragraph we have cited informs us what has been discovered in one direction; we add a deduction which the *Globe* makes, and which we judge to be correct:

It is currently reported, too, in the larger cities, that these Southerners count upon the aid of the Fenians both here and in the States. What truth there is in this we do not profess to know. But, at any rate, the object of both parties is identical. The Fenians see in war between the Republic and Great Britain, a chance for what they call the "regeneration of Ireland;" in other words, they think they would be able to convert this "gem of the ocean" into a huge Donnybrook fair. The Southerner sees in such a war an assurance of the independence of his own country. Their interests being identical, there is no reason why they should not coalesce.

During the recent Presidential campaign GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN, in a speech made in this city, repeated the assertion which he had made all over the country, that the object of the Fenians was not to symphathize with the rebels but to make war against Great Britain for the liberation of Ireland. As the sympathy of the members of the Fenian Brotherhood has been largely exerted in behalf of these opponents of the Government, we cannot doubt, that to carry out their darling scheme, they would have but little scruple about involving this nation in another war. What would it matter to them whether this Republic was laid in the dust, and the hopes of millions all over the world for the consummation of Freedom, dashed to the ground, so long as they had an opportunity to pursue their impracticable idea of liberating Ireland?

Men who lack the interest in the success of the Government that has sheltered them and protected them—that has opened for them the high road to advancement, so much as to organize themselves for the formation of a government, which, if it ever could exist, would last only long enough to demonstrate their decided unfitness for self-government, are not likely to consider our welfare, when the opportunity to fraternise and co-operate with our enemy presents itself. In order to set forth the danger of these movements, both as regards the organized movement here, with the avowed object of making war against Great Britain, and the organized movements of the Rebels in Canada, for the two cases are alike, we quote (as the *Globe* does) DR. PHILLIMORE, who in vol. 1, page 227 of his work on International Law, says:

A rebellion or a civil commotion it may happen agitates a nation; while the authorities are engaged in repressing it, bands of rebels pass the frontier to shelter themselves under protection of the conterminous State, and from thence, with restored strength and fresh appetites, renew their invasion upon the State from which they escaped. The invaded State remonstrates. The remonstrance, whether from favor to the rebels, or from feebleness of the executive, is unheeded, or, at least, the evil complained of remains unredressed. In this state of things the invaded State is warranted by International Law *in crossing the frontier, and in taking the necessary measures for her own safety*; these be the capture or dispersion of the rebels, or the destruction of their stronghold, as the exigencies of the case may require.

"Vatel," says the learned jurist, "maintains strongly this opinion." "*It is certain that if my neighbor affords a refuge to my enemies, at a time when they recruit themselves and the chance to watch for an opportunity to make a new irruption into my territory, conduct so prejudicial to my safety will be incompatible with neutrality.* When, then, my neighbor enemies retire to his dominions * * * he must not allow them to lay in wait to attack anew; otherwise he gives me the *right to go and seek them in his territory.* This is what shall happen to those nations who are not in a condition to make their territories respected; *very soon the theatre of war will be established there*; there they shall march, there they shall fight as in a country open to all comers."

In the same connection we deem it wise to counsel our people to watch well the movements of the rebel deserters who are to be seen wandering all over our country. We would not put an iota in the way of any of these poor people enjoying the generosity of the humane and benevolent, but caution and discretion on the part of the loyal people is important.

Maximilian and Mexico.

MAXIMILIAN having gone through the form of visiting one or two States in Mexico, without being molested in any manner, the people no doubt, having observed a strict, neutrality towards him, owing to circumstances beyond their control, he writes to his Secretary of state a letter, in which he sets forth that the Empire is desired by an immense majority of the Mexican people, and he promises "peace, tranquility, and justice for all." How he is to redeem this promise is very difficult to imagine, in presence of the fact that he could not remain in Mexico for a single day, but for the protection of armed invaders. He has changed his policy of mild address and bewitching kindness into a threat of annihilation. He calls the armies fighting under the banner of the Mexican Republic "gangs of bandits." This is an exhibition of how trained despots are anxious to make remorseless havoc of the liberties of a nation to secure their own diabolical purpose of living at the expense of any person or body of persons, rather than earn their bread in some honorable profession. If MAXIMILIAN and his teacher, the "Fagin" of the French throne, are not bandits in their conduct to the people of Mexico, what are they? As thieves of lesser magnitude would say, "they have been putting up a job" by which to extend their crime upon the liberties of the people of the United States. We would counsel Mr. MAXIMILIAN to be on the look out, for "the officers are on his track."

Political Gravitation.

There is so much specific political gravity in the composition of New Yorkers that there is hardly a public movement or enterprize into which they enter, which does not, sooner or later, become a vehicle for the conveyance of some profoundly disinterested individuals on their way to political advancement. A very large-hearted gentleman rejoicing in the appellation of "Secretary of the Central Council of the Citizens' Association" has just been demonstrating that the said Association has, centered in it, a sufficient number of adherents who are voters, to constitute the balance of power; and he has conceived the grand idea of trading with either of the parties larger than itself, provided always that the members of the Association will vote for extreme partizans—those that support openly known abolitionists or copperheads.

Now, we have been requested by Mr. Roosevelt to say that the Association must cease to be a "rat-hole to civil doors."

The high price of fuel has turned the attention of many people of Boston, Reading, Lynn, and numerous places in Massachusetts to the burning of peat, and that article is now kept for sale in Boston.

Public Hall.

A Public Hall, easy of access, convenient and complete in its arrangements and capable of seating comfortably from two to three thousand persons, is of all things most needed in the city of Pittsburgh. Those who attend concerts or lectures have this fact demonstrated so clearly that no argument is further necessary. It is an absolute disgrace to our city that we are so far behind all others in this particular. Private enterprise is not likely to accomplish what would creditably supply the deficiency, and the city corporation cannot. It must be done by the joint efforts of our public spirited citizens. Since our remarks some days ago in reply to a correspondent who wished us to urge the necessity of a Public Hall, we learn that several winters ago a Hall company was chartered by the legislature which last winter by a supplemental act was exempted from taxation. The design of the corporation as indicated in a report on the subject, is to purchase a suitable lot, in some sufficiently central position, and erect a building, with stores and a main entrance on the ground floor, and in other parts of the building: 1st. A library room, with ante-room and conversation room. 2d. A grand hall for lectures and musical entertainments, constructed according to the best models, and capable of seating not less than two thousand persons. 3d. Rooms for the Young Men's Christian Association and the Board of Trade. 4th. Minor Halls for the Historical Society and for Literary Societies. And, 5th. If practicable and desired by them, suitable accommodations for the Gymnastic Association. The first and second objects are understood to be the principal, and the others contingent on the decision of the stockholders of the Library Hall Company, when they come to arrange the details of the plan.

In a few days books for subscription to the stock of the Company will be opened, and our citizens waited on by a Committee; and we hope soon to be able to record that the means are provided for the erection of an elegant public hall, of which, with its noble accessories, Pittsburgh may justly be proud.

Care for Returned Pennsylvania Prisoners.

We learn from the Harrisburgh *Telegraph* that Governor Curtin has dispatched Surgeon General Phillips to Annapolis, to look after the welfare and supply the wants of the Pennsylvania soldiers, late prisoners in the South, who have just been exchanged and returned within our lines. Surgeon-General Phillips was dispatched by Governor Curtin to use his utmost endeavors in succoring the poor fellows who have suffered such barbarous treatment at the hands of the rebels, and to report at once to the State authorities for whatever co-operation may be needed to promote the success of his mission. Those having relatives and friends among the released Union prisoners now at Annapolis may rest assured that whatever the authorities of Pennsylvania can do to relieve our heroes will be promptly and cheerfully performed.

The Sixteenth Congressional District.

Messrs. Koontz and Coffroth, the Union and the Copperhead candidates for Congress, in the XVIth Congressional District, have appeared before Governor Curtin, for the purpose of discussing the right to the certificate of election in that district. Two returns having been made, it now depends upon prima facia evidence as to which is genuine. The Governor postponed his decision in the case until Wednesday next, and in the meantime the contestants have proceeded to take evidence as to the legality of the returns now on file in the State Department. The Harrisburg *Telegraph* says there is no doubt, whatever, that the facts will prove the validity of the returns giving Mr. Koontz, in which event the Governor will of course embrace his name in the Proclamation declaring the election of Congressmen in this State.

THE position assumed by Governor Brown, of Georgia and the Legislature of South Carolina in opposition to the conscription of State officers by the rebel government, has admonished the Confederate Senate that these two States must be appeased, and hence the prompt rejection, in substance, of the proposition of Jeff. Davis to cancel all exemptions. Davis should have been aware of this remonstrance from the "Gamecock State" before he committed himself to the proposition, as he would have sayed himself and his "Government" the humiliation which the resolves of the South Carolina Legislature has brought down upon him.

THE LONDON TIMES ON MR. WEBB'S LETTER.—In a late issue the London *Times* says:—It is fortunate for the peace of the world, that the English nation is not easily moved by unseemly language, but content with resistance to the acts of wrong, however offensive, to pass by without regard. Happily, our steady resolve to abstain from interference in the affairs of an agitated continent will never be weakened by any taunts or invectives coming from Americans, however highly placed. For this reason we may regard the answer of Mr. Watson Webb, the United States Minister at Rio Janeiro, to the Brazilian government in the affair of the Florida, as a matter of not the slightest political importance, and as only showing the temper in which certain men, representing the most powerful section of Americans, are accustomed to think and talk of us. The capture of the Florida in Bahia harbor was an outrage for which no ability could find a justification; the wrong was as gross and palpable, that Mr. Webb could not repudiate complicity in it.

MULLER died easily. He was dead almost as soon as he made his confession, the drop falling immediately after his spiritual guides left the scaffold, which they did almost as the words came from his tongue; and his departure was instantaneous. "Those who stood close to the apparatus," says the reporter of the *Times*, "could just detect a movement twice, so slight, indeed, that it could scarcely be called a movement, but rather an almost imperceptible muscular flicker that passed through the frame. This was all; and before the preliminary humming noise of the crowd was over, Muller had ceased to live, though as he hung *his features seemed to wear a look sharpen so under the thin white cap that the dead master's face looked like a wax model of a plaster.*" It is seldom that the peculiar horror that is indelibly associated with death by hanging has been so vividly presented as it is in the words we have italicized.

The soldiers in hospital at Montpelier, Vt., propose issuing a semi-monthly paper, to be called *"The Voice of the Soldier."*

Personal.

Rufus F. Andrews, lately Surveyor of the Port of New York, has written a letter to Thurlow Weed, which appears in the N. Y. *Tribune*. We cite a passage to intimate what it is about: —"Be mine the task to expose your rank features, and show you unveiled to your dupes. Then let them and the world

"Judge, if sin with all its power to blur,
Can add one vice to the foul thing you are."

Rudolph Walanta, a practicing physician of Chicago, is defendant in a suit brought by Matilda A. Violet, a child nine years old, who had been treated by him for inflamed eyes. She charges that by his treatment she was made incurably blind, and by her next friend sues for $50,000 damages.

A man named Hickox, employed in Thornton's woolen mill at Fairview, had one of his hands caught in a picking machine, on Friday, and torn from the arm at the wrist.

Commander Reed Worden, executive officer of the Philadelphia Navy Yard, has been ordered on duty under Commodore Stribling, and his place at the Navy Yard will be filled by Capt. John Gillis.

The Toledo *Blade* says: The passengers on the Lima accommodation train, coming north, yesterday, were witnesses to the union of "two loving hearts made one"—a circumstance that does not often occur on a railroad. On the arrival of the train at Leipsic, Mr. Thomas F. Heitner, of Fordovia, accompanied by Miss Jennie Williamson and Esquire Springer, of Leipsic, got into the cars, and immediately on the train starting, Conductor Harper assembled his passengers, brakemen and baggage-master into one coach, when they witnessed the ceremony of "tying the knot," with down-grade twenty miles per hour. At Ottawa, Mr. and Mrs. Heitner left the train, receiving the hearty congratulations of those who had so unexpectedly been made witnesses of the novel occurrence.

The Greensburg *Herald* says that Hon. Edgar Cowan voted for Lincoln, and that he will be found, in the Senate, upon the side of the President's friends.

Chief Justice Chase is the author of the phrase, "Congress has no more power to make a slave than a king." The sentence is contained in one of the resolutions adopted by the National Liberty (Free-Soil) Convention held at Buffalo, in 1856. Mr. Chase wrote most of the resolutions of this Convention.

Charles J. Jordan and Willard Eddy have been arrested for disturbing a congregation at West Coventry, R. I., last Sunday. They took their seats in the body of the church, and,after several occurrences which produced a pack of cards and carried on a game with obscene and blasphemous conversation.

The Baltimore *Clippir* advocates the choice of Thomas Holliday Hicks as one of those to be honored by placing a statue—two of which are to be contributed by each State—in the Senate Hall of the Capitol at Washington, and furthermore urges that the statue should be of gold.

Daniel Clark, of New Hampshire, President pro. tem. of the United States Senate, is a native of New Hampshire, graduated at Dartmouth College, is a lawyer, and was for five years a member of the Legislature of the State. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1857, and has served ever since. His present term expires March 4, 1867.

A London paper says that a young and rising nobleman, the Marquis of Lothian, has just published at Edinburg a volume entitled "The Confederate Secession," containing a clear and succient view of the question at issue between the Federals and the Confederates, and strongly advocating the views of the latter.

Foreign Gossip.

The Paris journals state that the Hungarian General Klapka, having won "fifty-seven thousand francs in one hour and a quarter, at the Casino of Spa," has gone to London to be married.

It was announced recently that the English fashion of shaking hands was to be introduced into French society, with all its British vigor and frequent observance. *Figaro* makes a lament at the absurdity of the custom, and pictures rather vividly the difficulties which recently befel two young lions who met on the Boulevards and "shnook hends." They held tight, and began to talk, each one in his turn; then both together, getting very red in the confusion of not knowing how to release hands, and fearing to draw away roughly, as it might be construed as an offense. With a full consciousness of their ridiculous position, each one wished the other with *sens les diables*, till at length, upon the excuse of evading a jostle from a paper-boy, one disengages his hand, and both sigh, released from purgatory, and again internally wishing each other at *tous les diables*, each one bows and bolts off with all speed.

During the stay of the Empress Eugenie at Schwalbach for three weeks, she gave away to the beggars of that place, and in reply to begging letters from various parts of Germany, not less than 30,000 francs.

The Madrid correspondent of the London *News* says: "We are honored here at this moment with the company of a great individual. Your First Lord of the Admiralty, his Grace the Duke of somerset—or as they call him here, *el Duque del Sumpmerselle*—has come to Madrid with all his suite, consisting of some dozen post captains, flag lieutenants and secretaries, half of them bearing the name of Seymour. The object of this diplomatic visit is the subject of great speculation here. The First Lord of the Admiralty, it seems, was cruising in the Mediterranean, on board of a Government steam yacht, with the ostensible or real object of inspecting "the fleets of all nations," (respecting which, as you are well aware, his Grace is so very competent to judge.) Having arrived at Valencia, (very sea sick), he took the railway, and came thence with all his staff to Madrid. 'The Duckey,' says *El Libertad*, 'will visit all the interesting objects of this city'; he will inspect the city of Segovia, the Escurial, Toledo, and all the objects of interest around Madrid. He will inscribe his name in the books of his hotel (where he occupies the apartments principal), and he will return to his yacht, (they can't make out how we spell that,) with his suite. The general opinion here is that the sooner the 'Duckey' goes back to 'his yachty' the better. The name of Seymour is as unpopular here as—shall I say—at Tolentino."

"A few years ago," says an able commercial writer, "it was computed that 3,000 actions were annually instituted in Spain against illicit traders. The courts of law were filled with perjury and the country with bloody conflicts. Nevertheless, French and English goods might be purchased in all the shops at Madrid, and indeed throughout Spain, at very little more than their price at Bayonne or Gibraltar, from which they were principally smuggled."

The maritime force of Spain is at a very low ebb. They have about twenty-seven steam vessels of not more than 7,500 horse power in the aggregate; the greater proportion of the vessels being of small tonnage. It costs upwards of 110,000,000 reals, or $11,000,000 per annum.

General Intelligence.

The permanent organization of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Chicago was effected on Saturday evening.

Extensive alterations and improvements are being rapidly completed at Camp Johnson, both to increase the security of the camp from the attacks of armed traitors, or to prevent the escape of captured chivalry, and also to meet more fully the requirements of the coming winter.

The Philadelphia *Ledger* says that within the past two years, six murderers have been committed in that city, in which the murderers escaped and are still at large.

Amid the bitter storm which prevailed on Friday night last, three extensive fires occurred in Philadelphia, keeping the firemen at their arduous but exciting duties till after daylight.

The Detroit *Tribune* states that at Cornuna, new coal developments are being made which, when fully tested, cannot fail to make it a point of interest of much importance to Michigan.

The Montreal (Canada) *Gazette* has the hardihood to claim that the Rebel attempt to destroy New York city was an act of righteous retaliation for Sheridan's devastations "in the Shenandoah Valley!"

The total number of deaths in Brooklyn, N. Y., during the past week, was 133.

A people's Mutual Coal Company was organized in Boston, Tuesday. The object of the organization is to give the stockholders coal at cost, besides a dividend of profits. The property of the company is situated in one of the richest coal districts of Pennsylvania.

Gold is said to have been found lately in small quantities near Bennington, Vt.

A trial of a new double-barrelled cannon was made in Hartford, Conn., a day or two ago. The gun carries a ball of fifty-six pounds, and water-proof metalic cartidges are used. It was fired at the rate of about two hundred shots a minute. An iron-clad caisson, with a capacity of 7,168 cartridges, accompanies the gun, and the whole can be drawn by one horse or the four men can fully man it. In the trial at long range a distance of nearly two miles was reached.

A fisherman recently hauled up a silver fork, marked "Atlantic," near the spot in Long Island Sound where the steamer "Atlantic" was wrecked on Nov. 27, 1846. It is a very heavy old fashioned silver fork, and bears marks of long immersion in water.

On Friday, November 25th, a little girl two years and a half old, wandered from the house of her parents near Queensville, Canada West, and although sixty persons searched diligently for her through the day and night, she was not found, and the weather being severe, it was concluded that she must have perished. Another day's search was also unsuccessful, but on the third day the child was found by three boys who went into the woods to gather beechnuts, and hearing a child cry, went to it; it held out its hands to them and said "take me." They immediately took it to the nearest house, and the necessary restoratives having been applied, it was brought round, and is doing well.

CITY MATTERS.

ALMOST A TRAGEDY.—Yesterday morning the Excelsior Lines' Omnibus No. 2, having as driver a Thomas Fisher, whilst conveying the hotel passengers to the 2 20 Western train, had one of the narrowest of escapes from destruction, and the consequent sacrifice of many lives. Whilst turning the corner of Liberty street, for the crossing of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's depot track, the driver although seeing the Philadelphia train approaching at a distance of not more than seventy-five feet, with the most unaccountable temerity resolved to push his team across the rapidly diminishing space between the train and the platform. The rashness of the undertaking may be inferred from the fact, that whilst the omnibus was packed with passengers, many of whom were standing, the carriage-way here passes within ten feet of the platform, and forms quite a declivity just as it meets the track—at this time entirely covered with ice—and had the omnibus been caught between the platform and the moving train, there would have been no alternative but that it should have been ground to fragments. As Providence would have it, he succeeded, but by such scant and narrow room, that although the engineer instantly checked the train, and the driver urged his horses with the greatest vigor, the cow-catcher of the locomotive grazed the back of the omnibus.

The feat of crossing the track at this point, in the present condition of an ice hill, is at the best a perilous one, but when it is attempted under such circumstances as that the slipping or walking of a horse—the momentary unwatchfulness or faltering of an instant on the part of the engineer, or any other of the many possible and unforeseen contingencies of such a moment, would only have had to lengthen the interval by a second to have doomed the majority of some fifteen passengers to a violent and horrible death, the severest of punishment seems scarcely too good for such a wanton foolhardiness. Had he come short by three feet of the speed by which he cleared the track the results would undoubtedly have drawn upon his devoted head a storm of public indignation and the condign punishment of the law, but as it happened the merest good fortune of a hair's breadth, as it were, allows the offender, who is morally as guilty as if the worst had happened, to go scot-free of punishment.

It does seem as though there should be some law or authority to which such culpable carelessness and reckless jeoparding of human life could be held amenable, and by which the perpetrator might meet the punishment his crime deserves.

We trust that the gentlemanly proprietors of this line whose personal carefulness and energy in meeting the wants of the traveling community are well known, will provide against any repetition of the above, by a rigid enjoining upon their employees of the duty of going upon the safe side where human life may sq easily be made the forfeit.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS.—Hon. Thomas H. Burrowes, State Superintendent of Soldiers' Orphans, will be at Lafayette Hall, Wood street, during to-day, to receive applications from widows and guardians for the care and education of soldiers' orphans. Quite a number of applications were made yesterday. During Mr. Burrowes' late visit to Philadelphia he had over two hundred applications. Those who feel an interest in this great work should make immediate application.

DEATH OF S. J. REA.—The well known Harrisburg correspondent of the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh press, S. J. Rea, Esq., died at the residence of his brother-in-law, in Beaver county, on Friday last. Deceased has been a resident of Philadelphia for several years, but had spent most of his time at the State capital. He was well-posted in State affairs, and therefore well qualified for the duties of a newspaper correspondent. He leaves a wife and family.

NEW HOSE CARRIAGE.—The Duquesne Steam Fire Engine Company are having built in Philadelphia a new hose carriage, which is to be one of the neatest and most substantial affairs of the kind ever introduced here. The carriage will be completed in a few weeks.

Selling at Cost.—We now offer our entire stock of trimmings, notions, small wares, &c., at actual cost, as we *intend quitting business.* Now is the time for bargains.
MORRIS & HUMBERT,
Cor. South Com. and Federal st.,
dec8-12w:w&th Allegheny City.

Two Hundred and Fifty cases Juvenile Libraries, embracing nearly every style of Juvenile books published, now in store at the Metropolitan Gift Book Store, No. 63, Fifth street.

CALIFORNIA WINES AND BRANDY.
These wines are the pure product of the grape, and possess a delicacy of flavor and a richness of taste unequalled by any foreign article in the American market. "Port"—a mild and gentle astringent; "Angelica"—a genial stimulant of highly nutritive character in cases of debility or exhaustion, and can be received by the most delicate and irritable stomach; "Hock"—will be found a pleasant wine for table use, very dry, and an assistant to digestion and promotive of an appetite; "Muscadet"—similar to the famous "Hungarian Tokay" unrivalled for parties or ladies' use generally, "Grape Brandy"—the pure distillation of the grape. For sale by
N. McCLARRAN & CO., Druggists,
83 Market street, cor Diamond, near Fifth street.
dec7

BOARDING.
A comfortable furnished room, with BOARD, for a gentleman and lady, or for a lady with one or two children, can be had at Sewickley.
Enquire at No. 99 Market street.
dec13-6t

HOUSE FOR SALE—A
THREE STORY BRICK DWELLING HOUSE,
No. 73 Liberty street, between Hay and Marberry streets, containing thirteen rooms, with gas and bath room. Enquire of M. A. LORENZ,
dec13-1m No. 62 Water street.

EDGWORTH SEMINARY,
FOR YOUNG LADIES,
A new Session will commence on MONDAY, January 2d. Address the Principal,
Rev. B. WILLIAMS,
dec13-3w Sewickleyville, Pa.

REMOVAL.
F. SELLERS & CO.,
PORK PACKERS and manufacturers of LARD OIL, have removed from their old stand to their new WAREHOUSE, corner PENN and WAYNE streets.
dec13-6t

H. L. BOLMAN.....JOHN SCOTT, JR.
President. Cashier.
MERCHANTS AND MANUF. NATIONAL BANK,
LATE MERCHANTS AND MANUFACTURERS BANK,
Pittsburgh, Dec. 12, 1864.

AN ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS OF THIS BANK,
to serve during the ensuing year, will be held at the banking House, on TUESDAY, the 16th day of January, 1865, between the hours of 11 a. m. and 1 p. m.
dec13-td JOHN SCOTT, JR., Cashier.

NEW MESS PORK.
New Leaf Lard.
Mill Grease.
FOR SALE BY KNOX & PARKER,
dec13-3t 309 Liberty street.

NEW MESS PORK.
NEW LARD, in tierces barrels, firkins and pails, put up expressly for family use.
HEAD LARD AND GREASE, on hand and for sale by
TOWNSEND & LONG, Packers,
dec7-tf No. 12 Fourth street.

NOTICE.
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PITTSBURGH SANITARY COMMITTEE.
The donation made by His Holiness, the Pope of Rome, His Eminence, Cardinal Antonelli, and the celebrated Alexander Dumas—are on sale at J. J. GILLESPIE'S, Wood street. As the proceeds go to the benefit of our sick and wounded soldiers, it is hoped our patriotic and liberal citizens will call at Gillespie's and purchase. By order,
WM. D. McGOWAN,
dec13-3t Sec'y of the late Pgh. San'y Fair.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY,
Washington, December 8th, 1864.

WHEREAS,
by satisfactory evidence presented to the undersigned, it has been made to appear, that the "Merchants and Manufacturers National Bank," of Pittsburgh, in the city of Pittsburgh, in the county of Allegheny and state of Pennsylvania, has been duly organized under and according to the requirements of the Act of Congress, entitled "An Act to provide a National Currency, secured by a pledge of United States Bonds, and to provide for the circulation and redemption thereof," approved June 3d, 1864, and has complied with all the provisions of said Act, required to be complied with, before commencing the business of Banking under said Act.
Now, therefore, I, HUGH McCULLOCH, Comptroller of the Currency, do hereby certify that the "Merchants and Manufacturers National Bank," of Pittsburgh, in the city of Pittsburgh, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, is authorized to commence the business of Banking under the Act aforesaid.
In testimony whereof, witness my hand and seal of office, this 8th day of December, 1864.
[L. S.] HUGH McCULLOCH,
dec13-1m Comptroller of the Currency.

NOTICE.
Soldiers wives residing in the First Ward, Pittsburgh, who are entitled to a portion of the RELIEF FUND, are requested to apply at No. 76 THIRD street, on THURSDAY, the 15th of December, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., when and where their respective claims will be examined and adjusted by the Committee.
dec12-4t

DIVIDEND NOTICE.
PHILLIPS OIL COMPANY.
The Board of Directors have this day declared a dividend of TWO PER CENT. on the Capital Stock, free of State taxes, payable to the Pittsburgh Stockholders, at the office of KING & PENNOCK, 29 Wood street, on and after [illegible] closed from the 9th to the 15th inst.
dec12-3t JOHN H. TAYLOR, Secretary.

PHOTOGRAPH CARDS
FOR GENTLEMEN.
Sample with catalogues sent for 25 cents. Inclose an envelope with your own name, and
Address, D. REMETTE,
dec12-6m 58 Liberty street, New York city.

CHESTNUTS.
100 bushels prime CHESTNUTS, for sale by
A. KIRK,
dec12-3t Nos. 172 and 174 Federal street, Allegheny.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

BARLEY MALT—
2000 bushels prime Spring;
1000 " " Fall.
FOR SALE BY THOS. BELL,
dec14-2w eod 97 First street.

COAL BLUFFS MINING CO.,
Office with that of the Eureka Insurance Company, on Water street, Pittsburgh.
DIRECTORS.
ROBERT FINNEY, JAMES K. LOGAN,
ALEXANDER SPEER, JAMES VERNER,
JOHN T. LOGAN, JOHN FLEMING.
ROBERT FINNEY, President.
ORMSBY PHILLIPS, Secretary. dec14-1w

OFFICE COAL BLUFFS MINING COMPANY,
Pittsburgh, December 13th, 1864.

DIVIDEND.
At a meeting of the Board of Directors of this Company, held this day, a dividend was declared out of the profits of the months of October and November, 1864, of FIVE PER CENT. upon the Capital Stock subscribed, free from Government tax, and payable forthwith.
dec14-1w ORMSBY PHILLIPS, Secretary.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.
OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY,
Washington, December 14th, 1864.

WHEREAS,
by satisfactory evidence presented to the undersigned it has been made to appear, that the "Citizens National Bank," of Pittsburgh, in the city of Pittsburgh, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, is authorized to commence the business of Banking under the Act aforesaid.
In testimony whereof, witness my hand and seal of office, this 10th day of December, 1864.
[L. S.] HUGH McCULLOCH,
dec14-2m Comptroller of the Currency.
[Other city papers please copy for 1 week.]

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.
Star Bakery and Confectionary.
P. SCHILDECKER
would respectfully inform his friends and the public generally, that he is now prepared, at his Store,
No. 22 Diamond alley,
with a large stock of
Confectionary suitable for the Holidays.
Also, fresh every day a fine large assortment of
FANCY CAKES.
N. B. Now foreign Fruits, Raisins, Figs, Dates, Almonds, Walnuts and Cream Nuts.
P. S My stock of goods will bear comparison with any other in the city. dec14-3w.

JOSEPH SCHMIDT,
IMPORTER AND DEALER IN
WINES AND LIQUORS,
409 Penn street,
dec14-1y PITTSBURGH, PA.

LECTURES BY
J. B. CONSER,
AT CONCERT HALL,
On THURSDAY and SATURDAY EVENINGS,
December 15th and 17th,
SUBJECT—Orators, Oratory and the Power of Eloquence.
Subject on Thursday evening—The Orators of Greece and Rome.
Subject on Saturday evening—The Orators of America. Also, Kossuth, the Hungarian Patriot.
Admittance 50 cents. Doors open at 7 o'clock. Lecture commences at 7½ o'clock. Tickets to be had at the principal music stores, and at the hall on the evening of the Lecture. dec14-1t

CHARLES MAGARGE & CO.,
WHOLESALE DEALERS IN
PAPER, RAGS, &c.,
No. 30, 32 and 34 South Sixth street, above Chestnut, West side,
dec13-1y PHILADELPHIA, PA.

DR. S. MENDEL,
CHIROPODIST,
FROM EUROPE,
Operates on
Corns, Bunions and Nails growing in the Flesh,
without pain or bleeding.
He will visit patients at their residence, from 9 a. m., to 1 o'clock, p. m., and attend them at the St. Charles Hotel, room 36, from 2 to 5 o'clock, p. m.
dec8-1w DR. S. MENDEL, Chiropodist.

$20,000 WORTH OF
TOYS, TOYS, TOYS,
FANCY GOODS, FANCY GOODS,
VARIETIES, VARIETIES,
OIL CLOTHS,
WINDOW SHADES,
WALL PAPER,
Have just been received and are offered
Wholesale and Retail at
FOERSTER & SCHWARZ,
nov26-eod 164 Smithfield street.

STEINWAY'S PIANOS.
The most perfect Pianos in the world.
A splendid new stock of
STEINWAY'S PIANOS.
Just received and for sale by
H. KLEBER & BRO.,
122 Wood street, Sole agents for Steinway's Pianos.
dec8-eod

J. C. MATTERN,
(Successor to George W. Weyman,)
DRUGGIST,
Corner Third and Smithfield streets.
oc26-1y-eod

REDUCTION.
26 Melodeons.
29 Cabinet Organs.
4 Second-hand Melodeons.
FOR SALE AT LESS THAN FACTORY PRICES,
Call at the subscriber's if you want to get an instrument cheap.
CHAS. C. MELLOR,
81 Wood street.

CORDAGE.
OIL WELL,
MANILLA and
HEMP ROPE,
BEST AMERICAN NAVY OKUM,
An assortment constantly on hand and for sale at New York prices.
LONG & DUFF,
oct1 2m 90 Water street.

C. H. ORTH & CO.,
GENERAL PRODUCE AND
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
No. 21 Smithfield street,
Between First and Second streets,
PITTSBURGH, PA.
☞ Liberal Cash advance made on Consignments. Orders from the country promptly filled at lowest market prices.
dec7-1y

UNION INTELLIGENCE OFFICE AND BOOK STORE.
Merchants, store-keepers, hotels, restaurants, private dwellings, manufactories, farmers, &c., can be supplied with males and females help for any and every occupation, by applying at the Book Store and News Depot, Sixth street, below Smithfield.
oct8 JOHN D. EGAN.

VINEGAR.
H. REDENBACH & SONS,
Wholesale and Retail Dealers in
PURE CIDER VINEGAR,
oct2 1y No. 150 Ohio Street, Allegheny.

GAS STOVES.
Just received a new supply of GAS-HEATING STOVES, for heating offices, parlors, bath rooms and bed chambers. Also, GAS STOVES, for cooking, baking, and heating smoothing irons. These stoves can be used in rooms where there are no fire-places or flues, and are warranted to give entire satisfaction.
For sale at the House Furnishing Store of
BARNDOLLAR & PRICE,
no21-1m No. 194 Wood street.

GREAT SALE OF
DRY GOODS,
Beginning on
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14th,
and continuing through the
HOLIDAYS.
47 pieces DRESS GOODS, at 31 cents—former price 44 cents.
21 pieces SCOTCH PLAIDS, at 50 cents—former price 75 cents.
1 case COBURG CLOTHS, at 62½ cents—former price $1,25 per yard.
FRENCH MERINOS, $1,50—former prices $2,25.
ALL WOOL PLAIDS, at 75 cents—reduced from $1,25.
BEAVER CLOTH CLOAKS, at $20,00 and $25,00.
HEAVY WOOLEN SHAWLS, from $4,00 to $12,00.
WOOLEN BLANKETS at $12,00.
BALMORAL SKIRTS at $3,50.
BEST KID GLOVES, $1,75.
Great Bargains will be given to those who call at
GARDNER & SCHLEITER'S,
No. 92 Market street.
dec8

CLOAKS
AT EXTRAORDINAY REDUCTIONS
IN PRICE,
AT
J. W. BARKER & CO.'S,
dec8-1w 59 Market street.

McCLELLAND'S AUCTION.
McCLELLAND'S AUCTION.
McCLELLAND'S AUCTION.
55 Fifth street.
55 Fifth street.
55 Fifth street,
BOOTS. SHOES.
BOOTS. SHOES.
BOOTS. SHOES.
AND
DRY GOODS.
DRY GOODS.
DRY GOODS.
AT PRIVATE SALE.
AT PRIVATE SALE.
AT PRIVATE SALE.
dec8

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.
EMBROIDERED PIANO COVERS,
EMBROIDERED TABLE COVERS,
HUDSON BAY ROBES,
VELVET OTTOMANS,
BRUSSELS OTTOMANS,
And the largest assortment of
ALL STYLES RUGS,
in the city, now open at the
CARPET STORE
of
OLIVER McCLINTOCK & CO.,
23 Fifth street.
dec13-1y

PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS.
If you wish to make
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS,
Call at
W. S. HAVEN'S,
Corner of Wood and Third streets,
and examine his
PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS,
PORT-FOLIOS,
WRITING DESKS,
POCKET BOOKS,
PORTMONIES,
GOLD PENS, PENCILS, etc., etc.
dec8-tf

FRANGAPANI POWDER.
Frangapani Powder.
Frangapani Powder.
Frangapani Powder.
At
JOSEPH FLEMING'S Drug Store,
corner of the Diamond Market street.
Patent Medicines. Patent Medicines.
Patent Medicines. Patent Medicines.
Patent Medicines. Patent Medicines.
A very large stock of genuine Patent Medicines constantly on hand, embracing every Medicine that is advertised. When you want anything in this line, you will save time and expense by calling at my establishment before looking elsewhere.
Paints, Oils, Varnishes, etc., at low rates. A

The Daily Commercial

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING TERMS.

Advertisements will be inserted in THE COMMERCIAL at the following rates, from which there will be no variation:

10 Lines, or 0-8 Inch, One Square.	Daily.	3 Times a Week.	Twice a Week.	1 Time a Week.	Weekly
One time	75				
Two times	1 25				
Three times	1 60				
Four times	2 00				
Five times	2 50				
One week	2 80	1 70	1 25	85	75
Seven times	3 10	2 10	1 50	1 05	
Eight times	3 40	2 30	1 70	1 15	
Nine times	3 70	2 50	1 85	1 25	
Ten times	4 05	2 70	2 00	1 45	
Eleven times	4 35	2 90	2 20	1 45	1 40
Two weeks	4 65	3 00	2 50	1 45	1 50
Three weeks	6 00	4 00	3 00	2 00	2 00
One month	7 50	5 00	3 75	2 50	2 50
Two months	11 25	7 50	5 65	3 75	4 25
Three months	13 75	9 15	6 85	4 85	6 75
Six months	26 75	18 85	10 40	6 90	12 00
Nine months	37 00	25 00	13 80	9 00	16 00
One year	47 00	31 25	16 60	10 70	20 00

CHANGEABLE ADVERTISEMENTS.—For one square, changeable one time each week, confined to the immediate business of the advertiser. All larger advertisements in exact proportion.

	Daily.	3 Times a week.	Twice a week.	Once a week.
One month	9 35	6 00	4 70*	2 00
Three months	17 20	11 45	8 60	4 00
Six months	24 00	16 00	15 75	10 50
One Year	40 00	28 00	24 50	14 00

For Business or Local Notices, under head of "CITY ITEMS," TWENTY CTS. per line, each insertion.

Special Notices, TEN CTS. per line, each insertion.

Death Notices, each insertion ..... 50 cents.

Marriage Notices, ... 75 "

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

An Officer Appeals to Ministers—Few Chaplains—No tents—Revival prayer-meetings—Soldiers deserve the best Preachers—Preaching overgraves—An audience in their grave clothes—An Officer's appeal for the Gospel.

Since the memorable message of Cornelius, the Centurion, to the Apostle Peter, we have seen nothing of the kind so noteworthy as the following letter from an officer of high position at the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac. Whether we consider the position of the writer, the force of the argument, the fervor of its spirit, or the novelty of a soldier pleading with ministers of Christ to give the gospel to the army, we must be deeply impressed by it. It was read to the Executive Committee of the Christian Commission on the day that a proposal to supply over two hundred chapel tents, at a cost of $123,000 was under consideration. We need scarcely say that the decision to supply them, if the church would raise the means, was unanimous. Mr. Morris K. Jessup's plan of asking each church to buy a tent, to be inscribed with its name, was unanimously, and without consultation, proposed and acted on by the Presbyterian church of Tuscarora, Pa., and the *Thompson Tuscarora Tabernacle* is now on its way to Nashville. Thus the Lord has been preparing soldiers to ask for, and the churches to give, the means of grace. Let every church send on speedily its camp chapel tent, and every town an able preacher for six weeks to occupy it.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION AND ITS WORK.

It has never been my pleasure to have the opportunity of listening to the claims of the United States Christian Commission, as presented by any of its agents. Almost constant field service during the war has precluded the possibility of becoming acquainted with the feelings of Christians North towards the Commission. How do you estimate the importance of its operation? If the results of its work have been communicated, very great interest must have been excited therein.

I fear, however, that the sympathy of the churches in the workings of the Commission is not proportionate to the interest they may feel in the results of its labors.

HARD TO GET PREACHERS.

I am led to infer this from the fact, as I have learned, that it is very difficult to secure *not money*, but the services of the right kind of preachers, for the most limited period prescribed by the regulations of the Commission.

What is the reason of this? One might inquire if it be from a lack of patriotism; but whenever I have been North, I have found my Christian friends there especially anxious that this war should be fought out to the most bitter end. In every prayer meeting I heard most earnest prayers offered for the efficiency of our armies—for the spiritual as well as the temporal good of the soldiers; especially for the sick and wounded of their number. Is not this patriotic? Is it not very kind that the soldier should be thus remembered? Then, look at the donations that are made to the Christian and Sanitary Commissions. Are they not magnificent specimens of beneficence? It would seem so. All these are certainly most commendable; and were the like done in behalf of any other cause it would be marvellously virtuous.

PRAYING IS NEITHER FIGHTING NOR PREACHING.

But in this case, suppose all should pray for the country, make donations, and hope that the war would be vigorously prosecuted—*but do nothing more*. If that would do the work, how gladly would our brave soldiers do all this over and over again, in lieu of the terrible hardships and exposures of their present life, nor think themselves either patriotic or benevolent.

In order to maintain this great and holy struggle, it is necessary that a certain aggregate number of citizens shall be in the field, denying themselves of all that is desirable in life while they live, and ready in any moment to sacrifice that for which a man will give all that he hath.

YOUR BUSINESS.

It would be very difficult to select those who, more than some others, *ought* to make this sacrifice. My country is equally your country, and your country is equally my country. The object for which we are fighting is equally dear to each and is common to all. Every citizen owes (if need be) his life to his country. If to avert from all a general danger, certain particular citizens nobly render their services and their lives on the battle field, would you call it benevolence when some of the rest, who are to share equally the reward won by the heroic few, donate a few dollars to relieve the hardships of their brave defenders? Do they not *owe* everything they have, even to their very lives, to those who are fighting their battles, though under no more obligation to do so than their fellow citizens, who practically have not sacrificed *one* accustomed luxury for their country's good? Are not all citizens, and especially Christian citizens, not in the army, under the deepest obligations, demanded alike by common gratitude and justice, to contribute all that may be expedient to promote the benefit of those noble men who soon may lie heavily and cold on the bloody field, *for them?*

CAN'T SPARE OUR PASTOR.

And yet there are some very patriotic churches which "don't feel able to spare our pastor, to preach to the soldiers in the army, for more than two weeks at most;" although meanwhile good supplies might be obtained to preach quite as usefully at home. The cushioned seats would remain just as soft, and the temperature of the building would be just as nicely regulated, as if the pastor preached in his accustomed place.

NO PRAYER-MEETING FOR THREE YEARS.

Not a week ago I heard a Christian soldier state in one of our camp prayer-meetings: "I have been in the army three years, and this is the first privilege of this kind that I have enjoyed." All this time the brethren of his own church had not been deprived of a single service in consequence of the war. They had indeed prayed for their brethren in the army, but did not feel able to spare their pastor, to go and preach to their brethren in the army, though they were spiritually starving and dying in the defence of the religious luxuries of those staying at home.

I am sure it is only necessary for the churches at home to get a correct view of the facts to secure the most prompt and unreserved co-operation with the Commission in every particular.

AN EYE WITNESS.

Having held official position in the field, both East and West, which afforded of very extensive observations, and having never been in any way connected with the Commission, my opinions concerning it are perfectly independent; they are presented on my own responsibility, in the hope that they may help the churches to form a just appreciation of their duties and their privileges in connection with the work under consideration.

AN OPEN DOOR.

The advantages which the army offers during the winter as a field of Christian labor are unparalleled.

At vast expense we send missionaries to preach the Gospel in China and India, where before one idea can be communicated to the people weary months must be spent in the study of the language. After that is partially acquired, through innumerable difficulties, the missionary succeeds in collecting perhaps an audience, here and there, of children, women, and men, of by no means the most intelligent class. The good work is one eminently of faith and patience. The city pastor has an audience alike composed of different classes and grades of such variety, that on many subjects it is difficult to address more than a small per centage of the audience directly at the same time. Then there are many who are too young, and many others too old, to afford much probability of successful fruition of the seed, no matter how earnestly it may have been scattered.

All, whether old or young, and of every class, are more or less preoccupied by the various occupations and excitements of city life, tending to preclude meditation on divine things.

A SELECTED CONGREGATION.

If that pastor visit the army as a delegate of the Christian Commission, he may go from one end of the line to the other, and throughout the entire army he will find but one style of audience; and that is a most possible class, in this—it consists almost exclusively of young men. They possess good average intelligence; are not preoccupied; are not hardened by fashionably caring provided for; they have simply to obey orders when they come, and in interim, have to endure so much wearisome monotony, that the man who would not like to preach to attend church when at home, would now gladly listen to anything or anybody.

SOLDIERS THINK.

The soldier's life, though not favorable for reading, is very conducive to reflection. The drum beats, and he awakes, or frets his rations or goes to bed, as the case may be, until it beats again. Without need for further description (in winter quarters) "as if he were a boy again." Their life is thus favorable both to attention and reflection. Of similar age, with common pursuits and dangers, they have common tastes and feelings. What is adapted to one suits all.

NO HALF-FULL MEETINGS.

The soldiers are willing to hear the truth. I have never attended a meeting held by the Christian Commission that was only half-full. As a rule they are overflowing, even where they are held every evening in the week.

NO STEREOTYPED MEETINGS.

It seems impossible to have meetings continue in the uniform style so common in the churches North. Always after the first few meetings a spirit of deep interest is awakened, taking on the character of what is termed a revival.

HOME AND SABBATH SCHOOL.

This, I think, is attributable to the fact that the majority of our soldiers have once been under the influence of Sabbath Schools or Christian homes, so that the buried seed has only to be a little watered, and it springs up with a freshness that is truly reviving to witness. It matters not how profane and irreverent they may have become, with the soldier as with the sailor, the memories of home and the Sabbath School are very sacred, and even though nothing that is said may in itself interest them, there is always one certain clue; let something be said which shall awaken their early associations, and their feelings are immediately enlisted. They will never "go back," as they term it, on their "bringing up."

DEATH REAL.

At home, should they be addressed on the uncertainty of life, Youth and growing strength from a never-failing shield on which these admonitions are received, but here touch that point so delicately, and every word brings up visions of dead comrades and hairbreadth escapes, to supersede any argument on that question. Death is to them as much a reality as life is.

WANTS SOMETHING TO LOVE.

The condition of the soldier exhibits an advantage for the reception of truth like to that which grows out of bereavement. So long has he been absent from those he loves, he begins to think of them, with those who were dead long ago; and as at midnight hour, beneath the silent stars, he keeps his lonely watch, he comes, more than other men, to feel the want of something to love. In this yearning mood, the soul is very apt to feel after God. Many fac's have I met with of soldiers coming off picket much wiser and much happier than when they went on.

WILL HAVE A GOD OR AN IDOL.

How then is it we have been accustomed to consider the life of the soldier so conducive to profligacy? Because it is so. When the tide of feeling, rising in the soldier's breast, is not taken at the flood by kind counsel and Christian sympathy, it bursts in scathed forms and destruction. When reflection but starts accusing voices, its spell must be broken by loud oaths, the troubled spirit must be soothed by drink, therefore it is most urgent efforts should be made to surround the soldier with every possible religious influence, seeing he is so easily saved if once so much.

FEARFUL CORRUPTION.

In the absence of these privileges the men are, week after week, and perhaps month after month, lying crowding in winter quarters, the intolerable ennui relieved only by a mutual exchange of all the filthy garbage that the vilest may have scraped from the filthiest kennels of human depravity.

The fearful corruption thus engendered is truly appalling, rendering the atmosphere too often totally fatal to the last spark of youthful virtue.

THE ONLY HELP.

If the Christian Commission fails to do the work it contemplates, it will be left undone.

NO CHAPEL TENTS.

During the winter it is impossible to have religious services in the open air. Yet there is not a tent in the Government service, to my knowledge, provided for this purpose.

A REVIVAL AT EVERY CHAPEL.

I cannot conceive of anything in which a benevolent Christian can make such a good investment for Christ as in the presentation of a chapel tent to the army. I have never seen one in use anywhere, but I became not only the occasion of deep awakening, but also inevitably a centre around which, in various camps adjoining, a work of grace would commence.

Besides one or two for each corps hospital, there should be one for every brigade in the army.

There is no other source, except the Commission, through which reading of any kind, except daily news, will reach the soldier. In no other way but by an organization of this kind, recognized by the churches and the Government, can chapels, Christian laborers, and religious reading be provided in any measure; as under no other circumstances could the necessary transportation, passes, and mail facilities be obtained.

SCARCITY OF CHAPLAINS.

Are there not chaplains commissioned on purpose to do this work? Yes, but with some of the regiments only. In the Fifth Corps, which I suppose is as well supplied as any in the army, there are to-day thirty-seven regiments which have no chaplain. Then, as every other corps, there is a brigade of artillery, there are independent batteries, division field hospitals, base hospitals, ambulance trains, wagon trains, and all the various headquarters, none of which are allowed chaplains at any time. For all this work there are only six delegates and two chapel tents. Besides, supposing there was a superfluity of chaplains, what could they do comparatively without chapels, books, tracts, etc.? In the Second Corps there are to-day thirty-eight regiments without chaplains, besides all the separate commands in it detailed above. With this corps there are now but three working delegates. All the regular troops that have been in the Army of the Potomac, with the exception of one regiment, have been totally without chaplains, even to bury their dead, and within a hundred miles of Washington have been less cared for than the recognized heathen. There is a base hospital near City Point for many thousand patients. Shall that be supplied with chaplains by transferring them from the few regiments which have them.

So far as the magnitude of the operations of the Commission are concerned, it would seem that the presence or absence of a few chaplains more or less, should scarcely be taken into account.

The delegate of the Christian Commission has many advantages.

* * * * * * *

NO RESTRICTIONS.

He is subject to no restrictions except those made in the division of the labor of the Commission. If he is not well received in one place he can walk a few steps further on to another. If missionaries in Pekin would meet with just about as much limitation. He has no military orders to give, or to obey. He is understood to be working for the good of the soldier, not for pay; this is a free pass to the soldier's heart.

NEIGHBORLY.

He comes full of fresh enthusiasm, which is exceedingly refreshing and encouraging, especially to the sick soldier. It does him good to see the clean, smiling face of a civilian, and he likes to tell him of his many adventures, it seems so neighborly. Then comes the utmost sympathy, followed by the gracious word of God, like the dew upon that of the grateful dropped into the open heart of the grateful soldier, who is made happier for the coming week by the friendly interview.

If the delegate happens to come from the same county as some of the men, they feel just as schoolcolboys when visited by a relative from their distant home. The effect is more cheering than any grown up people at home will understand.

WE WANT THE BEST.

The kind of delegates most needed are not good readers of sermons. The real, main work of the Commission must be done by steady, hard-working, faithful Christian men. The most desirable combination for a good delegate would be a happy facility for extemporaneous discourse, with cheerful conversational qualities. There are in the army a large number of officers and men of very high intelligence, who, prior to entering the service were accustomed to the best pulpit talent in the country. For three or four years they have heard but a few occasional sermons, and would seem to receive a new life, could they but hear once more the inspiring words of their old pastor.

PRACTICE AS WELL AS PREACH.

Why cannot the *best men in the country* visit the army occasionally, and encourage the brave men in the performance of those duties they once urged upon them to undertake? Are they not deserving of it? Would our comfortable brethren at home be thus making greater sacrifice for us than we are making for them? It is very desirable that our Christian brethren who are eager for young men to enter the army should, as far as possible, share their burdens after they are in it, and thus in our common cause manifest a common sympathy of a Christian patriotism.

A RETIRED MINISTER AND CHURCH.

The church which sends its pastor as a delegate to the army will not lose anything. The advantage is mutual one. The change is often very beneficial to the health of the delegate. It opens to him a new world, enlarges his knowledge of men, of a thousand things which he failed before to comprehend, furnishes him with a new field for illustration, and quickens his zeal for the salvation of men.

PREACHING TO MEN IN THEIR GRAVE CLOTHES.

He preaches over graves here, and he feels that men are mortal. He exhorts men daily who come here to die, and they sit before him in their *grave clothes*.

REAL PRAYER-MEETINGS.

The prayer-meetings of the army are not tame, formal, weekly meetings; they are no real as life and death, for sincerity and earnestness I can compare them only to the old Fulton street daily prayer-meetings during the great revival, and they must contribute to the benefit of the pastor as well as of the soldier. The Holy Spirit seems to be secretly working in anticipation of the co-operation of God's servants. Both at City Point and nearer the front, inquirers are coming to Christ, not like a stray sheep, but as doves flocking to their windows.

UNPRECEDENTED EAGERNESS FOR TRUTH.

During the ensuing winter the field will be fully available; it seems ripe for the harvest, and waiting only for the Church to enter the sickle. From what I have seen, I think there is an universal eagerness for religious truth in the army which is beyond all precedent. This is a work which demands no mean offering. It is a work not only the money of the church, but a liberal contribution of its best talent and of its most faithful pastors, as the demands of the Commission may require.

E. H.,
U. S. A.

Headquarters Army of Potomac, Nov. 21, 1864.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

☞ STEWART ROBERTSON, of the Third Ward, will be a candidate for Mayor of Allegheny city, subject to the decision of the Union Convention. de10

☞ FRANCIS TORRANCE, NOTARY PUBLIC AND COMMISSIONER for the States of Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri and Massachusetts, appointed and commissioned by the several Governors thereof and commissioned by the several Governors thereof and commissioned by the several Governors thereof

N. HOLMES & SONS,

BANKERS,

97 Market street, Pittsburgh.

Buy and sell at market rates—
U. S. 6 per cent. 5-20 Bonds.
U. S. do. 1881 Bonds.
U. S. 5 per cent. 10-40 Bonds.
U. S. 7-30 Three-Thirties.
U. S. 6 per cent. one year certificates.
And all other U. S. Securities, Bank Notes and Coin.
Stocks and Bonds of every description BOUGHT AND SOLD ON COMMISSION.
sn15

BANKERS' AND BROKERS' BOARD.

N. HOLMES, Pres. | J. HANNA, V. Pres.
S. S. BRYAN, Secretary.

Hours Daily at 11½ O'Clock, A. M.

TRANSACTIONS DEC. 13, 1864, AT THE BOARD.

	Bid.	Ask'd
U. S. 5-20s	108 00	108 25
U. S. Certificates of Indebtedness 97 50		
Gold	2 30	
Cleveland & Pitts. R R	104 00	.....
Connelsville 6s	.....	85 00
Allegheny Ins	26 00	.....
Monongahela Navigation	.....	48 00
Cleveland	107 00	.....
Connelsville R. R	11 75	.....
Connelsville Interest	12 00	.....
Pittsburgh and Steubenville	10 00	.....
Steubenville & Indiana	15 00	.....
Iron City	75 00	.....
Mechanics' & Manufacturers'	65 00	80 00
Allegheny Bank	.....	65 50
Diamond	9 00	9 25
Exchange	.....	24 00
Warren and Venango	.....	110 00
Phillips	.....	6 00
Barr, Story and Cherry Run	.....	1 ¼
Wells	.....	90 00
Cherry Run & Pittsburgh Pet. Co	.....	97 00
Iron City	.....	1 10
Linden	.....	5 12½
Oaks Valley	.....	2 00
Culbertson	.....	2 00
Federal	.....	1 25
Rhoads	1 20	.....
McAboy & Cherry Run	.....	1 00
Pittsburgh and Philadelphia	.....	1 33
Blood Farm and Ohio	.....	2 00
Cherry Run & Blood Farm	.....	1 20
Coal Bluffs Mining Company	.....	2 00
Mass Mining 3ds	.....	10 00

Philadelphia Stock Exchange Sales.

[REPORTED BY CLARKSON & CO., BANKERS, PHILADELPHIA.]

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 13.

The stock market to-day is weak. Maple Shade, 36@38; Seneca sold at 7; Dalzell, 9¼@9½; Curtin, 14@14½; Irvin, 10@10½. Gold 233. Our money market easy.

TUESDAY, December 13—P. M.

—Under the heavy demand on our loan houses for the past fortnight for money, and the largely increased volume of accommodations extended to facilitate transactions of a sound as well as a speculative character, our local money market has tightened up sensibly. Parties who are heavy purchasers of Government securities and oil stocks generally, feel anxious to carry their purchases till prices have touched a top figure, when they can unload with decided profit. Rates for loans, therefore, rule pretty steep at the present time. Borrowers are sure of making it up by the advance in their stocks.

—McIlwaine's Weekly Sales of Stocks was very fully attended last evening. The following transactions were made:

10 Iron City Bank	$85 00
10 Citizens' Bank	87 50
10 M. & M. Bank	75 00
15 Fulton Ins. Co	100 00
10 Western	85 50
25 Allegheny Valley Railroad	13 30
100 Cherry Run Central	1 05
100 Tarr, Story and Cherry Run	1 20
200 Cherry Run and Pitt Hole	90
20 Dalzell	8 87½
50 Fleming and Blood	1 25
100 Ritchie	1 25
100 Ohio Valley	1 75
100 Union Lubric	75
100 Eldorado	2 10

—But few sales were made last evening at the People's Stock Exchange:

200 Ritchie	$1 25
100 Tarr, Story and Cherry Run	1 12½
100 Oil Creek and Cherry Run	3 55

We are requested to state that Thursday evening of each week will be specially devoted hereafter, at this place, to the sale of Bank, Railroad, Insurance Stocks and other standard securities.

—A correspondent of the Philadelphia *News* writes that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction among the stockholders of the Union Petroleum Company, of that city, (some of them also reside here) arising from the fact that the dividend from the earnings of the month of November has been passed. As we understand the case, the stockholders are willing to do without a dividend whenever necessary, if they are permitted to know what becomes of the company receipts. According to the company's prospectus, it is possessed of a very valuable property, included in which is a sixteenth of the production of the Noble and Diamond Company, which is well known as one of the most productive properties in the Oil Creek region. The stockholders, many of them, urge that there is no doubt about the fact that the Company is entitled to large receipts from the wells in which it holds interests, and the question is as to what becomes of the money. It is stated that Mr. Deery, President of the Company, and Mr. Sabine, the Treasurer, who were not long since large holders of stock, have recently disposed of the greater part of their interest. Why is this? say the stockholders. Have these gentlemen sold out at high figures, and do they now hold back the dividend for the purpose of *bearing* the stock that they may again become purchasers at lower figures? These are pertinent questions, suggesting that some explanation on the subject ought to be made. A movement has been started, we learn, for a meeting of the stockholders, to investigate the business of the Company; but perhaps the officers will, on consulting, conclude to give the required information; and it ought to be required by the stockholders of *every* Oil Company that a full exhibit of the condition of its affairs should be made out and published monthly or quarterly.

—We referred to a project on foot in Philadelphia to create a new Stock Board. The *Ledger* gives the following particulars, which will be interesting to many of our readers who deal extensively in stocks in that market:

"A new Independent Public Board of Brokers has been organized in this city, and notice is given that it will be open for business on the 21 of January. There is such a Board in operation in New York, and those who are opposed to the close corporation and private transactions of the old Stock Exchange in this city, have for some time had in contemplation the association, the transactions of which should be public. As a step in this direction there has for some time existed among the brokers what is known as the "Outside Room"—a kind of Second Board—composed of some two or three hundred persons, some of whom are large capitalists, and many others who are nearly all the members of the Stock Exchange. This outside association, which is governed by nearly or quite the same rules as the Stock Board, has grown to considerable importance since the introduction of oil shares in such profusion on the market. The business in these and other stocks has been transacted much larger than that of the old Board—but all worked harmoniously until last week, when some misunderstanding provoked formal action by the Stock Exchange in a series of resolutions, which were considered offensive by the members of the "Outside Room," who retorted, not only in kind, but by the formation of a new Public Board, electing the following named gentlemen as its officers: President, T. S. Serrill; Secretary, John C. Johnson; Treasurer, William Watson; Executive Committee, Thomas S. Serrill, Robert J. Mercer, Clement March, T. J. Withington, A. Warthman, James Allderdice, Jacob Goldsmith, Joseph J. Sharpless, Amos Phillips, George R. Graham, R. S. Cassatt, H. H. St. John. There will be two regular sessions of the Public Board, viz: at half past 10 o'clock a. m., and at half past two p. m., when a regular call of stocks will be made, including the list of Oil shares, at which time the public is invited to be present. Each session will last one hour only, unless the time is extended by a vote of the members present. The place of meeting is not yet determined on, and there is some talk of putting up a building specially devoted to the purpose of the Association. It is quite probable, however, the Committee having the matter in charge will take the large room in Dr. Jayne's building, lately occupied by the Post-office. Other rooms are also offered. The feature of making the business *public*, in contradistinction to the system ever observed by the Stock Exchange, will be popular, and will give to the new Board favor that it might not otherwise command. A proposed reduction in the commissions charged in the purchase and sale of stocks, from the present rates in the fractional currency of six and a quarters, and twelve and a half *per cent.*, to *five* and *ten* cents, will also favor the new Board, and will be found more convenient in use."

—At the New York Petroleum Board, on Monday afternoon, the following were the closing quotations:

	Bid	Asked		Bid	Asked
Excelsior	6 25	5 00	Tucker Oil Co	— —	6 00
Germania	1 05	1 15	Allegheny	— —	1 50
Highland	1 10	1 15	Bonny Farm	— —	1 50
Knick. Pe'm	55	65	Buchanan	2 15	2 40
Manhattan	—	80	Rynd Farm	5 15	5 25
McClint'k'e's	8 85	— —	Bennehoff	— —	2 90
McKinley	8 15	— —	Blood Farm	15 10	24 00
Petrol'm Cen	—	5 00			

—At Boston, on Monday, Copper Stocks were strong. Central closed at 55, Franklin at 50½, Huron at 43, Isle Royale at 18, Mesnard at 7, Minnesota at 26, Pewabic at 56½, and Quincy at 97½ and Superior at 9.

—The bank circulation of Wisconsin has been increased during November $49,236. The whole amount of outstanding circulation is as per banks, $2,607,801; banks winding up, $83,478; total, $2,691,279, which is secured by stocks [illegible] at $2,735,148, of which $21,000 are rebel States stocks.

PITTSBURGH GENERAL MARKET.

PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL OFFICE, }
Wednesday, Dec. 14, 1864. }

Business was not active. The sales were few and far between. The weather yesterday moderated. The ice was running heavy in the Allegheny; business on that river being suspended. There will be no receipts by that route for some time. The receipts of prodnce were limited on the Monongahela wharf. We noticed a number of boats loading for lower ports. Whether they will venture out is another matter. Unless the weather continues to moderate they are about as well in port, at least, for the present. The Armenia came in from St. Louis, with a large trip of miscellaneous freights. The officers report the ice as running heavy in the Ohio. The Annie was due last night from Cincinnati. She brings a large cargo. The only departure was the Emma Graham, for Zanesville. She had a light trip. The Kate B. Porter is receiving for Clarksville and Nashville. She is announced to leave this day. The Roanoke has the principal portion of her freight on board. Should the weather continue to moderate she will take her departure this evening. The Onward is also loading for Cincinnati and Louisville and is advertised for this day. The present cold spell is just what our pork packers have been waiting for, as it just suits them, and they are making good use of the same. All the dealers that intend packing are in active operations. They are purchasing in both the Allegheny and East Liberty yards and some large lots have changed hands. The current prices, for good sized being $12@13 per cwt., some very extra lots were held at $13 50.

SALT—The market has been unchanged for some time past. The sales were steady at 3.50@3.60 from store and at the same usual advance for delivered.

BEANS—This article which has been neglected for some time past was more inquired for and we note small sales at $2 75@2 80 per bush.

FLOUR—We have nothing new to notice in regard to this article. The receipts about keep pace with the demand and prices have ruled steady. The exports have not been large. Among the sales we note the following: Extra 100 bbls at $10 00@10 25; 100 bbls do winter wheat at $10 90; extra family, sales of 90 bbls at $11 25; 100 do at $11 20; 100 bbls do at $11 20@11 25; country lots sold at lower prices as per quality.

DRIED FRUIT—The market was firm with a larger demand. Sales of 10 bbls Apples at 10@11c per pound. Peaches—Sales of 6 bbls at 26@27c—an advance.

HAY—High prices seems to be the order of the day. Under light receipts, prices have further advanced. We note sales of 11 tons baled, on wharf, at $41; sales of 15 loads at scales at $13@50 per ton.

GRAIN—The market has been moderately active for some days past. All good parcels offered found ready purchasers at the full rates. Wheat was firm but not very active. The nominal rates were: Red, $2 00@2 05; sales of 600 bushels at the latter figure. White may be quoted at $2 12@2 15. Corn was in fair demand. We note small sales of old Shelled, at $1 60@1 65, new, $1 25. Oats firm with a large inquiry; sales of 2225 bushels, at 68c, and 400 bushels from store at $1 00. Barley firm and wanted, at $1 80 for Spring, and $1 95 for Fall.

EGGS—Prices declined a shade. Sales of 3 bbls at 48c.

BUTTER—The demand is increasing. Holders are asking an advance. Sales of 5 bbls at 42@45c.

POTATOES—This article appears to be neglected. We note sales of 150 bush Peach blows at $1 per bush.

APPLES—Prices were unchanged, but holders were firm. Sales of 75 bush at $3 25, and 100 do choice at $3 50.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—The offerings were light and former prices were fully maintained. Sales of 2,000 lbs at $5 50 per cwt.

BACON—We have nothing new to note in regard to this article. We note small sales of new Shoulders at 22c; Sides, 28c; sugar-cured Hams, 25c. The supply on hand is limited.

GROCERIES—The market ruled firm with a limited demand. Dealers take hold sparingly. As prices were unchanged we omit them.

LARD—There was an improved demand for this article and prices advanced. Sales of 10 bbls prime leaf at 25c; small do do at 24c. The market closed firm.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL OFFICE, }
Wednesday, Dec. 14, 1864. }

The Oil market yesterday was steady with a fair demand. The heavy transactions of the past five days have taken a large amount of oil out of the market; besides, the closing of navigation will necessarily prevent receipts by that route. All things considered, the market was in favor of holders, or at least in favor of those who were the fortunate possessors of crude oil. There were no steamboat departures this week. The only arrival was the Brilda, that succeeded in reaching this port yesterday, after a pretty rough trip to Oil City and back. She brought no oil. Time being precious, she could not wait. At the Allegheny wharf the following boats are laid up: Ida Rees, Echo, Uriola, Petrolig, Advance and Leclaire. Our latest reports from Oil City states that the market was firm at the mouth and at the wells; Eastern buyers were plenty and a large amount of oil changed hands during the past ten days; oil territory was in demand and money plenty. The inhabitants of the oil district are going it with a rush. Below will be found the sales that came under our notice:

CRUDE OIL—The market yesterday was unchanged so far as prices were concerned. The stock on hand is not large. The sales were 50 bbls at 45c, packages included; 150 bbls at 40, barrels returned; 76 do do at 40; 150 do do at 40. Sales of oil, packages included, viz: 1,272 bbls at 45@45½. This sale was closed late on Tuesday evening. 50 bbls at 45; 48 do at 45, and 150 do at 45. The market appeared steady at the prices we have mentioned. Buyers did not appear very anxious and were inclined to hold off. The closing of the Allegheny river will operate in favor of holders.

REFINED OIL—Holders were not disposed to force transactions. They say that prices must advance in the same proportion as Crude, which is a few small sales were made at pre-vious prices. The large operators were not offering their stocks at the present figures. The sales were 50 bbls free at 58; 60 do do, 80; 50 do do, 86, and 110 bbls light straw to-night at 85. At the close of the market holders were asking 67@68 for bonded and 88@87 for free. We heard of no sales above what we have quoted.

TAR—We have heard of no transactions for some days. Holders were firm at $7 25 per barrel.

NAPTHA—This article has been neglected. No sales have been reported for the past week. The nominal prices were, bonded, 20; free, 40c per gallon.

Boston Wool Market.

The wool market continues firm at full previous rates, and the demand is more active than usual in the manufacturing districts. The year draws to a close, and the time for balancing and settling accounts comes round, manufacturers habitually refrain from increasing their stock of raw material, and were there a close up as possible, coming into the market for supplies after the New Year. The fact that most of their sales are consummated from routine, and continue to buy wool regardless of the commercial usages of the season, plainly indicates either great consumptive exigencies, or a strong conviction on the part of consumers that prices are likely to rule higher, and that no time is to be lost in securing full supplies of staple.

The National Wool Manufacturers' Association, organized last week, at Springfield, has developed a feeling of harmony and co-operation between the members that is a great interest which must be productive of the best results to it, and incidentally to those industrial and commercial interests with which it is ultimately connected. We are glad to see that its scheme of operations is so comprehensive and liberal, and that it brings into fellowship and council, with a view to progress and mutual improvement, the wool grower and merchant, as well as manufacturer.

Sales are quite brisk for the week foot up some 500,000 lbs, at the full previous range of 95@$1 10 for fleece, and 90c@$1 10 for the different grades of pulled. The bulk of the transactions were at 95@98c for Ohio, Canada and fine Western fleeces, including several large lots of choice Pennsylvania and Ohio at the outside figure. In foreign the sales have been light, mostly of the low grades for carpet fabrics, not including small lots of Cape at 52@58c.—*Bulletin.*

Boston Petroleum Market.

BOSTON, Dec. 12.

The market is excited in view of the proposed legislative circles, to impose a heavy excise tax upon crude oil. The stocks of this, which are now held with great firmness, and an active demand for investment is expected momentarily to set in, which must have the effect to largely advance rates.

Refined oil, both free and bonded, is also very firm, and the transactions, though light, have been at a shade higher prices than quoted in our last report. If the rise in gold is sustained for any length of time, there must then be improved demand for exports; and nothing in the uncertainty which surrounds the commercial and military situation prevents buyers from exercise "pitching in."

The stock of crude oil has lately increased in the Western markets. The receipts from the wells have been liberal, and limited only by the facilities for transportation; and this supply continues to be taken on the spot, as fast as barreled up, at very full prices.

We quote crude oil firm at 50@52c; refined at 75@76c in bond, and 95@98c duty paid, up to 98 @$1 for Kerosene. Naptha is selling at 50@58c @ gallon, as to gravity. Residuum, $11 30@12 50 @ bbl.—*Bulletin.*

New Bedford Oil Market.

[Special report for the Commercial Bulletin.]

NEW BEDFORD, Dec. 9, 1864.

The oil market continues very firm, with sales during the past week of 1,540 bbls Sperm Oil—say 900 bbls at $2 05 for manufacturing, 600 do, at $2 15 for export, and 100 do, at $2 10; also, 40 do, at p. n. t. In Whale sales amount to 1,720 bbls—say 700 do, Arctic at $1 88@1 96; 620 do, coast at $1 35@1 40; 403 do, South Sea at p. n. t. Holders firm at $2 10@2 15 for Sperm, and $1 45@1 90 for Whale.

Late advices from San Francisco give rather a discouraging account of the success of the whaling fleet in the North Pacific and Arctic oceans. Some twenty-five whalers were at that port with very small average fares of oil, which, in default of a market in California, they were about to ship to New Bedford in a large vessel chartered for that purpose. They report whales very scarce and small north of Sherings Straits, but had rather better luck in the Sea of Ochotsk.

Boston Copper Market.

The market is quiet, but pretty firm at previous rates, with light receipts of crude metal from the Lake Superior region, owing to the great scarcity of mining labor. Small sales of Sheathing Copper at 65c, and Yellow Sheathing Metal at 65c @ lb, 6 mos. Bolts and Braziers' Copper are selling at 65c, and Yellow Metal Bolts at 50c, 6 mos. Ingot Copper is held at 49@50c @ lb, with sales in New York at 48@52c, the outside figure for Minnesota. Old Copper is selling at 45@47c, cash.—*Bulletin.*

Pittsburgh Iron and Nail Market.

Dec. 14, 1864.

Prices during the week have declined one cent per pound on all sizes of iron. The following table can be relied on. This will, no doubt, increase the demand.

FLAT BAR.

	₱ lb
1¼ to 6, by ¾ to 1 inch	7¼
2 to 6, by 1 to 1¼ inch	7¾
1½ to 1¾, by ⅜ to ¾ inch	7¾
1¼ to 1½ by ⅝ inch	8

HORSE SHOE.

	₱ lb
⅜ to 1, by 5-16 to ⅞ inch	8¼

HEAVY BAND IRON.

	₱ lb
2 to 6, by ¼ to 3-16 inch	7¾
1¾ to 1⅞, by ¼ and 3-16 inch	8
⅛ to 1⅝, by ¼ and 3-16 inch	8¼
⅛ to ¾, by ¼ and 5-16 inch	8½

HOOP AND LIGHT BAND.

	₱ lb
2¾ to 6 inch	8¼
1¾ and 2	8½
1¼ and 1½	9
1 and 1½	9¼
¾ inch	10½
½ inch	11½
⅜ inch	12

Hoops cut to specified lengths, ¼ cent per pound extra.

ROUND AND SQUARE.

	₱ lb		₱ lb
1 to 2¾ inch	7¼	¼ and 9-16 inch	8
2¾ to 3½	7¾	⅝ to 7-16 inch	8¼
3 to 3½ inch	8	8-16 inch	8½
3½ to 4 inch	8¼	½ inch	8¾
⅜, ¾ and ⅞ inch	7¾	8-16 inch	11

OVAL IRON.

	₱ lb		₱ lb
⅝ to 1¼ inch	7¾	¼ inch	8¼
⅜ and ¾ inch	8	⅝ inch	8½

HALF OVAL AND HALF ROUND.

	₱ lb		₱ lb
¾ to 1¼ inch	8	¼ inch	8¾
⅜ and ¾ inch	8½	⅝ inch	9

WAGON BOX IRON.

	₱ lb
	9½

SHEET.

	₱ lb
No. 10 to 17	10
" 18 to 24	10½
" 25 and 26	10¾
" 27	10¾

All sheets over 28 inches wide, ¼c ₱ lb extra.

PLATES.

	₱ lb
3-16, ¼ and 5-16 inch thick	9
Over 30 inches in width, ¼ cent ₱ lb extra.	

FLAT RAILS

Punched and counter sunk.

	₱ lb
1¼ to 2, by ⅜ to ¾ inch	8
1¼ by ⅜ and 7-16 inch	8¼
1¼ by ½ and ⅝ inch	8½
1¼ by ¾ inch	9

Juniata Iron 2½cts ₱ lb over "American."

PLOW HANDLE IRON.

	₱ lb
Plow Handle Iron	8¼

NAIL RODS.

	₱ lb
Juniata	15

NAILS.

	₱ keg		₱ keg
10d to 60d Nails	$ 12½	2d Fine	10 87½
8d and 9d	8 37½	2d "	11 37½
4d and 7d	8 87½	2d Fin., Lining	11 87½
6d and 5d	8 87½	Clinch	9 62½
3d	9 37½	Cut Spikes	8 37½
Casing Nails,		Barrel,	
¾ inch	10 13	¾ inch	11 88
8d	9 88	1 inch	11 13
10d	9 63	1½ inch	10 38
12d	9 63	1¼ inch	10 38
16d	9 63	1¼ inch	9 88
Finishing,		Tobacco,	
8d	10 63	6d	9 88
8d	10 38	8d	9 63
10d	10 13	10d	9 38
12d	10 13		
16d	10 13		

12½ cents per keg off, in lots of 100 kegs or upwards.

½ cent per pound off Iron (except sheet iron,) in lots of 20 tons.

Prices subject to changes of the market without notice.

TERMS—Note or acceptance at 60 days with exchange on New York, or a discount of 3 per cent. for cash, if remitted on receipt of invoice. Payments to be made in New York exchange, U. S. Treasury Notes, or their equivalent. No discount on bills of less amount than fifty dollars.

Hog Products.

Cincinnati.—There continues to be a strong market for provisions, but transactions are mainly confined to mess pork, of which there were several sales at $38 for country and $39 for city. The latter covered 100 barrels, delivered one half now and the other on the 1st of Jan. Holders of good city brands are firm in asking $40. There were sales of prime mess at $35. It is generally held now at $36. Bulk meats are rated at 15½c, for shoulders, 17½@17¾c for sides packed.

Green shoulders are handled at 13¾c, though there is not much disposition on the part of cutters to accept these figures.

Lard is saleable at 22c, but it is not offered at less than 23½c, and in most cases it is held for 25c.

There was some irregularity in the movements of the hog market during the day, but it is not materially changed from what it was last evening. There was a decline of 10c early in the forenoon, and at one time during the day it seemed to have been achieved. On that swell, $14 65 was set up for averages of 200 lbs, but it was not realized, and they cannot now be quoted at more than $14 50. Such as weigh 150@200 lbs are rated at $14 75, and averages of 200@250 lbs at $15 00.

The market closed quiet and rather heavy, at $14 50 for 200 lbs averages, and $14 75 to $15 00 for 220 to 280 lbs averages. The receipts were 3,000 head.

Sales were:

600 averaging 200 lbs at			$14 50
200	"	190	" 14 25
200	"	200	" 14 75
200	"	250	" 15 00
196	"	200	" 14 65
150	"	190	" 14 35
250	"	225	" 14 50

Louisville.—In the hog market we have no change of consequence to report, and we continue to quote at 11c gross, which is the price still offered by the government agents and the contractors for heavy hogs, delivered here. For hogs delivered at the farmers' pens in the country, the gross is paid, though we heard of no contracts yesterday at 10c gross, but were unable to learn the number or the time or place at which the hogs are to be delivered. The weather this afternoon being favorable, all the causes which kept back, some 2,000 head were slaughtered. The receipts to-day were favorable, and up to this evening they will not fall very far short of 60,000 head around the Hills.

Chicago.—The receipts were about 14,500 head, and the entered sales up to 5 o'clock this evening, 12,200 head. The market opened buoyant, but after a small sales were off 25@30c on 100 lbs. There was considerable excitement in trade, and prices were at a wider range than on yesterday. Early in the forenoon, large droves changed hands as high as $12 50@13 for 250 to 280 lbs average, being the highest range of prices ever before known, but in the market for live weights. This sudden advance in prices will have the effect of testing the supply in the country, for certainly drovers and farmers will hasten their stock to market, now that they realize the advance, which will enable packers to determine to what extent their demands can be supplied during the balance of the season. Advices from the market east note an advance of $1 per 100 lbs on live weights, with a corresponding advance on the hog product. Sales of Cut Meats were also in good operations, and produced an active competition between them and packers, which, in a measure, accounts for the unexpected advance in prices to-day. Of the whole number sold 864 head, averaging 280 to 380 lbs., were taken at $11@12 50, chiefly at $12 60; 3,164 head, averaging 200 to 250 lbs., chiefly at $12 50@13; 1,500 head, at $11 75; 7,200 head averaging 225 to 300 lbs, $11 @11 25, and the remainder at $10@10 75, chiefly at $10 50@10 75.

St. Joseph, Mo.—For the past week hogs have been arriving in our city in large numbers from Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and the upper portions of our State. The pens at the wharf and at Swinging Bridge, on the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, are literally packed with hogs, while our packers are killing night and day, in their endavors to reduce the accumulation now on hand. Messrs. Pinger & Co., Henry & Co., and others have entered into the packing business largely, and no fears need be entertained by persons in the interior that the market will be glutted, or that they will not be able to dispose of their surplus swine in this city. Mr. Sneer, 9 dressed hogs; Harn & Jones, 10 baskets chaff; J. Blasrock, 12 bush oats; H. Ewer, 30 sacks wheat; J. Holt, 10 sacks corn; J. T. Long, 17 bush corn, and 21 hogs.

IMPORTS BY RAILROAD.

Per Cleveland and Pittsburgh R. R.—Nimick & Co, 10 tons metal; J S Leggette & Co, 326 sks wheat; C B Leech, 100 bbls flour; A Gaskell, 95 bus wheat; Simpson & Co, 150 sks wheat; J Rhodes, 377 bus barley; Schomaker & Co, 100 bbls flour.

Imports per Pittsburgh, F. W. & C. R. R.—Knox & P, 50 tes hams; F Sellers & Co, 115 do do; J B Canfield, 257 pigs lead, 329 bags salt; Schoonmaker & Co, 50 bbls flour; A Wallace, 50 bbls flour; Lambert & Shipton, 106 bbls h whe; Knox & Parker, 100 bbls flour; A Taylor, 145 sks oats; J Rhodes, 179 sks barley; J H Speer, 284 sks oats.

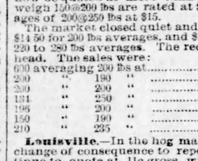
Imports per Allegheny Valley R. R.—Nimick & Co, 100 bbls refined oil, 122 do do; McKeown & Co, 100 do do; J. Alter, 16 sacks wheat; Kennedy, 11 do do; Mr. Sneer, 9 dressed hogs; Harn & Jones, 10 baskets chaff; J. Blasrock, 12 bush oats; H. Ewer, 30 sacks wheat; J. Holt, 10 sacks corn; J. T. Long, 17 bush corn, and 21 hogs.

IMPORTS BY RIVER.

St. Louis.

PER ARMENIA—H S Bollman, 96 bales hemp; Clark & Co, 500 bbls flour, 21 bales dry hides, 2 pkgs; H H Collins, 25 bbls clay; Dalang & Chesnet, 513 green hides; Jas Dalzell & Sons, 25 bbs oil; B A Fahnestock, Son & Co, 10 bbls oil; H Gordon, 8 bxs and 12 cases lead. M F Gabler, 10 bbls clay; E Hyde, 14 sks cotton; T C Jenkins, 72 bales hay; Marshall & Bro, 4 pcs castings; Marshall, Fulton & Bollman, 54 bales hemp, 12 do tow, 1 pkg; R F Miller, 5 bbls clay; Watt & Wilson, 100 dry hides, 100 green do; J Y McLaughlin & Co, 100 dry hides.

PIANOS.



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Cheaper and will stand in tune longer than any other PIANOS made. Also, Smith's Harmoniums and Melodeons and Musical Goods generally, at the lowest Eastern cash prices. Pianos to let. Tuning and repairing done at the shortest notice. Sheet Music bound with neatness and dispatch. jel4

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FANCY GOODS AND NOTIONS.

Just received at

T. T. MYLER & CO.'S

WHOLESALE NOTION HOUSE,

62 Wood street, at the lowest prices. no30

River Matters.

Arrivals and Departures of Steamboats.

ARRIVED.

Franklin	Carmichael	Brownsville.
Gallatin	Clarke	Brownsville.
James Reese	Irwin	Elizabeth.
Bayard	Peebles	Monon. city.
Armenia	McCallam	St. Louis.

DEPARTED.

Gallatin	Clarke	Brownsville.
Franklin	Carmichael	Brownsville.
Jas. Reese	Irwin	Elizabeth.
Bayard	Peebles	Monon. City.
Emma Graham	Stull	Zanesville.

THE RIVER.—Last evening at twilight there were about six feet of water in the channel, and falling. The weather, during the day, moderated. Boats were still engaged in taking in freight.

THE splendid passenger steamer Onward, Captain James Mellon, leaves on Tuesday for Cincinnati and Louisville. This boat has very superior accommodations, and is in charge of as clever a set of officers as can be found. Mr. Speer, who presides in the office, will see that passengers are well cared for.

THE favorite passenger packet Kate B. Porter, Captain J. L. Porter, is announced for Clarksville and Nashville. This boat has unsurpassed accommodations. Captain Porter is a general favorite with passengers and shippers. She is entirely new, and offers unsurpassed advantages to shippers. The first clerk is R. H. Porter. She is a Porter boat out and out, and stands at the head of the list.

THE splendid passenger steamer Roanoke, Captain James Shedden, is announced for St. Louis this day. This boat is one of the best of her class, and has been fitted up in a superior manner. Captain S. has purchased the commanding interest, and takes charge from this day. We congratulate the Captain in taking charge, and we also congratulate the owners in procuring the services of so competent an officer.

Cincinnati.—Tuesday's *Commercial* says: The river, here, has receded 15 inches during the 24 hours ending last night. There is 12 feet hence to Louisville, and 6 feet in the canal. The Lower Ohio is falling, with nine feet from Portland to Cairo. There was 6 feet and rising in the Cumberland last night. There is 4 feet in the Kanawha. The Kentucky is falling slowly, with five feet from Oregon to the mouth. There is six feet in the Tennessee river.

The Rob Roy left for Pittsburgh with 360 tons, including 3,000 barrels of flour—all private freight. Captain Bryson and Johnson Mcintire are at the wheel. Captain Kenlston contemplates loading the Rob Roy for New Orleans, on her return from Pittsburgh.

The Ontario left for Louisville, where Captain Harton expects to load for Pittsburgh. She will be back here on Friday or Saturday.

The J. R. Gilmore left Pittsburgh for Cincinnati and Louisville, on Saturday evening, with a fair freight and passenger trip. The wind blew a perfect gale along the river on Sunday—a day and night. At Madison the gale was very severe. It caught the fast Madison packet, C. T. Dumont, blowing her chimneys overboard. Capt. Hamilton telegraphed Capt. Gracie for a new pair. We also learn from Capt. Frank Bacon that Capt. Neal was so unfortunate as to lose his hat overboard which contained all his valuable out of charts and contracts. Better luck next time Captain.

Messrs. Barker, Hart & Cook yesterday, received a dispatch from Captain Alexander Montgomery, commanding the new steamer Maria, recently exploded and burned at Carondolet, below St. Louis, stating that all the officers and crew escaped without injury. The Maria was a new stern-wheeler, worth $40,000, and owned by Captain H. A. Jones, Thos. Sherlock, C. G. Pearce, and Messrs. Barker, Hart & Cook. She was insured in this city, but we suppose the explosion vitiates the policies.

A notice of a recent steamboat explosion on the Cumberland, in an exchange, ends as follows: "The Captain swam ashore. So did the chambermaid, she was insured for $15,000, and floated with iron."

There is now an abundance of Pomeroy coal, for steamboats, at the old yard, at Coalport, Ohio. The miners' strike has played out.

The Missouri was full of ice, weather bitter cold, and the river falling fast, when Captain J. J. Robinson left St. Louis, last Saturday evening, at 5 o'clock. We failed to receive our Sunday *Republican* yesterday, which indicates a suspension of navigation at that point—the ice being too heavy for the ferry-boats to cross the river.

Tuesday's *Gazette* says:

BOATS IN PORT.—The following boats were at the wharf last evening:—Yorktown, St. Johns, Willie Gatnage, Kate Robinson, Robert Burns, Rowena, Emma Floyd, Ontario, Nashville, Nightingale, Lawrence, Catolina, J. H. Groesbeck.

The Rowena, Capt. Draw ds receiving freight for Memphis on the "Dead Line."

The gentlemen who have been engaged in purchasing steamers for the use of the navy, have changed their field of operations to Pittsburgh.

Among the late arrivals from St. Louis we notice the names of Capts. Jas. J. Robinson and A. C. Hartson.

Floating ice is reported to have been seen at Pomeroy yesterday.

St. Louis.—The *Democrat* of Monday says: The river was running full of heavy ice on Saturday, and navigation above Alton is entirely suspended for the present. The weather has moderated considerable, and it is not thought there will be any interruption to navigation below. As a matter of course the river is declining very rapidly, and fears are entertained that it will soon be as low as it was before the recent rise. When the last boat came up there was full six and a half feet at the shoal places hence to Cairo, and no boats aground.

There was not much business transacted on the levee Saturday, but all the boats that were loading completed their cargoes and got away. The transactions for to-day will depend on the state of the weather and river.

To-day the election for President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Atlantic and Pacific Steamship Company, takes place at the company's office. It is pretty well understood that Captain John J. Roe will be chosen President. We have expressed his willingness to serve, and **will give up his** other business to his son-in-[illegible] n J. Copelin. The Secretary [illegible] will probably be elected, is both a popular and competent gentleman.

CAIRO, December 11.—The Thomas E. Tutt was captured at noon, on Friday, at Cumberland River, by the rebel General Forrest, who used her as a ferry-boat to cross the force, after which they burned her. She was on her way to Nashville, with six thousand sacks of Government oats.

The crew of the Tutt arrived here this evening, on their way home, having been paroled. The Federal officers and twenty additional privates were also captured on the Tutt and are also here, paroled till exchanged. The ferry boat Fowler also captured during the night at the same place. The tow boats Hornet and Kellogg ran past the battery, through a shower of shot and shell, but escaped without serious damage. The rebel steamers were also blown up and may have been captured.

RAILROADS.

1864 PHILADELPHIA AND ERIE RAILROAD. 1864

This great line traverses the northern and north western counties of Pennsylvania to the city of Erie, on Lake Erie.

It has been leased by the Pennsylvania